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THE TIMES

Katie Stewart's Christmas fare, page 16

Heath chances of staying on look good

Conservatives' new procedure for electing r party leader each session was published erday, but, with no substantial challenger in t. Mr Heath's chances of confirming his tion look good, our Political Editor writes. ıy Tory backbenchers are saying privately the leadership dispute is inflicting unneces- damage on Mr Heath and the party.

New procedure but no challenger

vid Wood

the new procedure for the *on of a Conservative leader* to hand yesterday (details, 4), the parliamentary rank *ile were still at their wits'* o name a plausible candi- to challenge Mr Heath. *ir favoured standard-*, Mr Edward du Cann, nan of the 1922 Commit- *lashed hopes by publicly* that he could not be e of the election in the *ballot and then stand in* ballots.

the BBC television pro- *ne Newsday*, he told Mr Day that he could not at any point. He was not lidate and *did* not propose

Thatcher is now the only nger to Mr Heath who her cap in the ring. Mr law privately insists that innot stand against Mr

has the feelings of loyalty un through most of the w Cabinet, and as party nan he is Mr Heath's ee. It would be anoma- or Mr Whitelaw to run so as the leader from whom epted stewardship for the says he will take up any nge.

Keith Joseph, the most oken internal critic within adow Cabinet of the Con- ive Government's failings errors between 1970-74, rages any hope that he stand.

servative backbench *s are becoming more* rate and fanciful in the ssing of possible candida- *The latest exploration of* ench opinion involves Mr ard Wood, son of Lord Hali- *Foreign Secretary in the* 1930s.

Wood, who lost both legs *he Western Desert*, has been a Cabinet member— as served with distinction overseas minister. He was named as a possible candi- last week by a very few benchers seeking a Bald- n figure, but scarcely any ort has rallied to him.

r the time being, with no antial challenger, Mr h's chances look good: and backbenchers admit pri- y that the whole leadership ite is unnecessarily damag- both the party and Mr h.

Newsday last night Mr du said the new election pro- re, drafted by Sir Alec glas-Home's committee of was not biased against Mr h.

did admit, however, that a ge of wording allowing for "confirmation" of the y elected leader at a meet- attended by peers, parlia- tary candidates, and mem- of the executive committee he National Union would v the non-parliamentary es, in alliance with some benchers, to reject the 1922 mittee's nominee in or out overnment. He thought that unlikely.

r du Cann confessed that would be surprised if the mittee's proposals stirred up h controversy.

Political Correspondent es: Conservative MPs study- the new scheme considered the revised rules for the ballot did not favour Mr th's chances of quick re- tion.

hat view was the opposite of expressed by Sir Alec glas-Home, whose commit- had drafted the new scheme electing the leader each ion when in opposition.

"We have changed the rules", he said, "to put the responsibility squarely on the shoulders of members of the party in the Commons to try to get a decisive result in the first ballot".

But the vital change, according to most backbenchers, will be an invitation to MPs to abstain in the first ballot and leave the way clear for new candidates to present themselves for the second vote.

Under the old procedure, the leader was elected if one candidate received an overall *majority and 15 per cent more* of the votes cast than any other candidate. "The votes cast" *was the key phrase.*

Under new rules the leader would be elected if "one candi*date both receives an overall* majority of the votes of those entitled to vote"—which means *the 276 Conservative MPs—* "and receives 15 per cent more of the votes of those entitled to vote than any other candidate". The important phrase here is "of those entitled to vote".

There might well be deliberate abstentions to show the lack of support for either Mr Heath, who intends to stand, and Mrs Thatcher, the only other contender so far to declare herself, in order to see whether more favoured candidates could be encouraged to stand in the second ballot.

MPs who support Mr Heath *were saying yesterday that they* would seek to change the rules to ensure that all prospective *candidates stand in the first bal*lot. That would obviously help Mr Heath to survive as leader *and make the election compre*hensible to the public.

They argue that the compli*cated procedure preserved in* the new scheme is really half way between complete democ*racy and the old elitist system* of leaving the choice to a "magic circle" within the party.

The rules for the second ballot state that both the original candidates in the indecisive first ballot and "any other candidates" could stand.

The new rules lay down the procedure for the views of all sections, including the Conservative peers and Conservatives in constituencies not represented by Tories in Parliament, to be conveyed to the 1922 Committee before the election.

Members of the 1922 Committee will be expected to take those views into account, but *the electoral college* remains the body of Conservative MPs.

For the first time the com*position of the confirming body* is set out. The candidate elected by the party in the *House will be presented* "for confirmation" to a party meeting of MPs, Conservative peers, adopted candidates, and members of the executive committee of the National Union not *included in those categories.*

To win at the first ballot a candidate will need at least 139 votes *and a lead of at least 42* over the nearest rival.

Sir Alec said: "This report is made to *the leader, Mr Heath*, and he will doubtless take his soundings among MPs and in the party organization *before* coming to a final decision whether to adopt these sugges- tions or not. . . .

"There was no machinery for the reelection of the leader. We say that *there should be an* election not earlier than three months, and not later than six months after a *general* election"

Leading article, page 15

Petrol to cost at least 10p a gallon more as price control is abolished

By Edward Townsend
Business News Staff

The price of four-star petrol is likely to soar on Friday to 74p a gallon in some areas and may go up by another 2p a gallon before Christmas.

A prediction to that effect was made yesterday by the Petroleum Retailers' Association after *the announcement by Mr Varley*, Secretary of State for Energy, of a record increase in petrol *prices and the abolition of maxi*mum retail price control.

The Price Commission has *allowed eight oil companies to* increase prices from Friday, which would add about 7p a gallon and 25 per cent value-added tax to petrol, but Mr Varley said he had made it clear to the garage trade that he did not expect pump prices to increase by more than 10p. He *hinted that price controls might* be imposed if they did.

Reimposition might lead to a *clash between the Government* and retailers who, in campaigning for the abolition of price *controls, have maintained that* the erosion of their profit margins has forced hundreds of filling stations to close.

Small filling stations, particularly those in rural areas faced *with paying high surcharges on* comparatively small fuel deliveries, may increase prices by an extra 1p or 2p a gallon on top of Mr Varley's 10p "limit".

Mr Geoffrey Atkinson, general secretary of the Petroleum Retailers' Association, described the 10p limit as absolute nonsense. Mr Varley had removed restrictions with one hand but *was brandishing the threat to* return them with the other, he said. The extra 1p that garages *had been given indirectly as* their margin was not enough, and 74p a gallon on Friday was almost certain.

However, big garages in urban areas may well limit the increase to about 9p a gallon, and the price in London and in places close to refineries is expected to be 72½p a gallon.

EEC COMPARISON

The following prices are charged for four-star petrol in the EEC:

Italy	88p
France	76p
Denmark	75p
Belgium	74p
Holland	74p
West Germany	71½p
Irish Republic	65p

The increases do not take into account the 4 per cent price rise announced by the big oil exporters at the weekend, and if the Government continues to load increases on to petrol the four-star price might go up by a further 2p.

The Price Commission pointed out yesterday that garages still had to observe the require*ments of the price code* and could not earn profits in excess of their reference levels. The *commission is studying the fuel* distributors' margins and is expected to report in February.

Mr Varley's statement, given in a Commons written reply, said the oil companies needed increases because of the higher cost of crude oil. He recognized that some rise in retailers' margins was warranted now that oil products were plentiful and there was widespread competition.

He announced that price control on Derv would also end on Friday and the cost of paraffin would rise by 3p a gallon but still be subject to *control.*

Later the Price Commission disclosed that it had cut all the *increases sought by the oil com*panies. Gulf Oil, which had wanted a 39 per cent increase, had its application reduced by 7.54 per cent; Texaco's proposed 33.9 per cent rise was cut by 0.13 per cent; and there were varying cuts on applications from BP, Burmah-Castrol, Esso, Mobil, Shell and Total.

The oil companies' last increase was 10 months ago, when the price went up by 8p to 50p a gallon. In April, VAT was imposed on petrol, first at 10 per cent *and then rising to* 25 per cent last month.

Shell Mex and BP, Esso and *Mobil said yesterday* their wholesales prices would go up from midnight last night by 7.35p, exclusive of VAT. Home heating would also cost more.

Shell said paraffin would go up 2.08p a gallon and gas oil by 2.75p. Esso is increasing paraffin by 1p and gas oil by 2p, and Mobil heating oils will go up by 1.5p.

Increases on Derv are also being varied. Shell is adding 2.08p a gallon to retailers, Mobil 1.75p and Esso 2p.

Motorists bearing brunt, page 21

Mr Wilson denies Stonehouse spying

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Wilson said in a Commons statement yesterday that there was no truth in reports that Mr John Stonehouse, who disappeared in Miami four weeks ago, was spying either for the Czechoslovak intelligence service or for the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Nor was there any proof that the missing MP was being kept under investigation or surveillance by the security service at the time of his disappearance.

Taking the unusual course of making a statement on news*paper reports about intelligence* activities, Mr Wilson said that the allegations were first made by a Czechoslovak defector in 1969 when Mr Stonehouse was a member of the Labour Gov*ernment. With the Prime Minis*ter's approval they were fully investigated at the time, and *both the defector and Mr Stone*house were interviewed by the security service.

After those investigations the security service advised him that there was no evidence to support the allegations. He had been advised again yesterday that no more evidence had come to light since 1969.

"One has always to face the possibility", Mr Wilson said, "that when defectors come out of the country where they have been and find their capital diminished—their intellectual capital, of course—they try to revive their memories on matters". It should be obvious to all that had there been a scintilla of evidence Mr Stonehouse would not have remained a member of the Government. He had given all possible help to the investigations in 1969.

From the Opposition front bench Mr Heath asked for an assurance that the present case would not be taken as a prece*dent that when allegations of a* security kind were made in the press a statement had immedi*ately to be made in the House.*

The Prime Minister replied that it was a difficult matter, *but there had been a serious* press campaign based on stories going back to 1969, when he *was responsible for such mat*ters. They had been fully investigated at the time and *there was nothing in them.* It had been proved that Mr Stonehouse was not a Czechoslovak spy and also that he was not a security risk. Mr Wilson said it did not follow from this case *that he would comment on all* future allegations of that nature.

Labour MPs urged that Mr *Stonehouse's family should be* released from the "distressing pressures" caused by the *rumours and innuendos.* Mr Wilson agreed that that was causing great distress to them. *He urged that the press should* act with reticence.

Parliamentary report, page 12



Miss Ballantine with her father after arriving at Heathrow airport last night.

Freed British girl arrives home

By Tim Jones

Miss Susan Ballantine, the Cheltenham student who was *jailed in East Germany for five* years in September for trying to smuggle her boyfriend to the West, was released yesterday after serving "six months 16 days and 14 hours in prison".

Miss Balantine, who is 23, hugged her father, Mr Cecil Ballantine, after she had arrived at Heathrow airport, London, and said: "This was the best Christmas present I could have had. I have no complaints about my treatment. I was treated a lot better than other *prisoners.*"

But she was not prepared to answer questions about her boyfriend, Herr Volker Benes, a trainer for an East Berlin *football team, or about her* prison conditions. Her father, a college lecturer, said any answers to those questions could "prejudice negotiations that may still be continuing".

Miss Ballantine, who was con*victed of being involved with a* professional Western organization as well as aiding and *abetting illegal border cross*ings, described her ordeal as "six months of sheer bore*dom". She added: "I think I* was well treated because I kicked up a fuss."

For the first five months she had been dressed in a track suit and then issued with a "school*girl" type uniform. She would* not comment when asked whether she regretted her actions.

She had no indication that she was going to be released until yesterday morning. "I was taken before the public prosecutor and told I was being released after the State Council had issued an act of clemency. I just said: 'Thank you' in German.

"It feels absolutely incredible to be back. I can't believe it. The six months won't exist now. I just want to pick up where I left off, finish my studies and get a job."

Her father, who was in the office of Amnesty International when he heard the news, said: "This is our Christmas present. We were expecting to drink to absent friends, but now it won't be necessary. We shall have a wonderful family Christmas.

Miss Ballantine's case brought a storm of protest in Britain and Mr Wilson intervened personally with an appeal for clemency to his East German counterpart, Herr Horst Sindermann.

The move was totally unexpected. Last month Miss Ballantine had been moved to a top security prison near the Czechoslovakia border and certain privileges were denied her. She was not allowed English newspapers, magazines or books, and communication with her family was restricted. Even her English Bible was taken away.

Man killed as three bombs explode in London streets

By Staff Reporters

Three bombs exploded in London last night, killing one man and injuring several people, including three policemen.

One of the explosions occurred in New Compton Street, near the Philips building on the fringe of Soho. It was caused by a car bomb at the back of a Post Office administrative block in Shaftesbury Avenue. It ripped the car apart and lifted it several feet into the air, the wreckage landing on another car parked near by.

The ABC cinema in Shaftesbury Avenue was cleared, Charing Cross Road was closed to traffic and police issued loudhailer warnings to pedestrians to leave the area.

The fatal explosion was outside the Museum telephone exchange in Chenies Street, off Tottenham Court Road. It was thought to have been caused by a parcel bomb.

The dead man had been working inside the building. Two other people were injured, one seriously. The blast shattered windows and glass littered the street outside.

One of the injured men was *taken to the Middlesex Hos*pital. The other had only minor cuts and shock.

The bomb exploded at 9.35, according to Miss Karen d'Groot, journalist living in Tottenham Street. She said: *"I heard a loud bang which* sounded like a clap of thunder but I knew immediately what *it was.*

"I looked out of the window and saw an old man with blood on his face walking away."

A telephone exchange in Draycott Avenue, Chelsea, was affected at about 9.15 pm. A bomb, on a motor cycle outside the exchange, shattered most of the windows of the building but none of the fifty people working there was thought to have been injured. Police had received a warning and were able to evacuate the area but three policemen were injured as the bomb went off.

Diners in Daphne's restaurant near by were shaken by the blast and a large chandelier hanging over the entrance lobby crashed to the floor. No one was hurt.

A warning was telephoned to the *Daily Mirror* by a woman with an Irish accent. She said: "A bomb is in the telephone exchange in Draycott Avenue and will go off any time."

Mr Sean Gough, a local resident, was making a telephone call in a kiosk a few *hundred yards from the ex*change when the explosion occurred. By coincidence he was speaking to a friend in Shaftesbury Avenue who had just heard the first Soho explosion.

Israel's papers advertise anti-Zionists'

From Our Own Correspondent
Jerusalem, Dec 17

Israel's newspapers accept anti-Zionist advertisements worse than that published by *The Times* last week, the Jerusalem evening newspaper *Yediot Aharanot* said yesterday.

It said in a leading article: "It is of course good that *The Times* retreated. Because if it had turned its attention to Israeli newspapers, which publish advertisements which are far more extremely anti-Zionist and anti-Israel than the one published in the British newspaper, it would certainly have thought twice before drawing back because of the voices of protest by its shocked Jewish readers."

French MPs agree to tunnel

Paris, Dec 17.—The National Assembly has authorized the French Government to ratify the Channel tunnel treaty with Britain. It did not take account of the British request

M Henri Cavaille, the Transport Secretary, said, however: "The French Government is proposing to postpone by a few weeks the deadline for ratification, because the British Parliament has not yet studied the Bill permitting ratification."—UPS.

Overseas selling prices
Republic of Ireland 9p; Austria, Sch 13; Belgium, BFr 25; Denmark, DKr 3.50; Finland, Fmk 2.50; France, Frs 2.80; Germany, DMk 1.00; Greece, Dr 30; Holland, Dfl 1.75; Italy, Lire 400; Luxembourg, Lf 18; Malta, 9c; Norway, Kr 4.00; Portugal, Esc 17.50; Spain, Pes 35; Sweden, Skr 3.50; Switzerland, Sfr 2.50; Yugoslavia, Din 10.

UN resolution on Namibia urges S African pull-out

The Security Council yesterday adopted a strongly worded resolution urging South Africa *to withdraw from Namibia. It condemned the* illegal South African occupation of the territory, and set out a series of measures with which *South Africa must comply. In the event of non*compliance, the Council will consider "appro- priate measures

Page 6

British opinion swings towards Community

The British people are developing warmer *feelings towards the European Community*, according to an opinion poll published by the European Commission in Brussels yesterday. The poll also shows that in most other EEC countries few people care very much whether Britain stays a member or withdraws

Page 5

'Shadow' jury tougher

An experiment in which "shadow" juries in courts disagreed with sworn jurors' verdict in seven cases out of 28 is reported today by the *Oxford Penal Research Unit. On the whole*, shadow juries were more inclined to "convict". They "aquitted" only two defendants *actually convicted by a jury*

Page 4

'No EEC threat' to oil

Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday dismissed the idea that Britain's *membership of the EEC poses a threat to its* control of North Sea oil reserves. At the first meeting of the Energy Ministers of the Nine in *Brussels yesterday no one challenged* Mr Varley's claim to sovereignty over these resources

Page 5

Australia gain 2-0 lead

Australia beat England by nine wickets with more than a day to spare in the second Test match at Perth yesterday. Australia now lead *2-0 in the six-match series. Thomson*, the Australian fast bowler, dismissed Greig, Denness and Fletcher in his first three overs. *Titmus with 61* was England's top scorer

Page 10

Greek presidency move

The Greek Government yesterday proposed to Parliament that Mr Michael Stasinopoulos, a judge, should be appointed as interim President. His powers would be largely ceremonial and he would act as head of state for three or four months while Parliament works out a new constitution. A vote is expected today

British Library: Lord Eccles, in his first annual report, reaffirms his conviction that the new *building should be opposite the British* Museum 2

Hospital consultants: More 'work to contract' action as anger mounts over delay in negotiation with health department 2

Press freedom: Mr Foot gave a guarded response in the Commons to a Newspaper Society call for round-table talks 4

Washington: President Ford succeeds in coaxing Congress into allowing military aid to Turkey to be resumed 6

Tokyo: The Japanese Government announces plans to reduce oil consumption in the country by 3 *per cent* 8

Sugar: Court of Appeal grants English dealers in Paris market an interim injunction stopping payments by London International Commodities Clearing House. Law Report 11

Psychologists: *Eric Wigham takes a look* at the increasing use of psychologists in industry 21

Tunisia: Two-page Special Report looks at the achievements and shortcomings of President Bourguiba's regime 26-27

ritain to deport arrested Palestinian tudent today for security reasons

a Staff Reporter

Ir Hani Babaa, a Palestinian dent, was arrested in Ketter- , Northamptonshire, earlier s week and is to be deported ay on the ground that his sence in the United King- n is not conducive to the olic good.

The Home Office refused to ulge details. Mr Babaa has en in Britain for three years, d for the past year has been udying at Kettering Technical llege. Students from the col- ge yesterday handed in at *10* owning Street a protest ainst his deportation.

There is no obligation on the me Office to delay Mr baa's deportation because tional security is involved.

Mr James McKinlay, the col- ge principal, said he had oken to Mr Babaa yesterday, d that the latter did not plan *make representations*, being signed to his expulsion.

There have been several *cases* of Palestinians being refused entry or reentry to Britain, but the power to deport under the 1971 Immigration Act is rarely used. The National Council for Civil Liberties said yesterday that it could not recall a recent case of such deportation on security grounds.

Mr Babaa was fined in a London magistrate's court in June for having a shotgun. Mr McKinlay said that Mr Babaa, who is being held in custody in Northampton, although local police refused to confirm that, assumed that the court case was the reason for his deportation.

The charge, however, appeared to have been largely technical. The Home Office said that no recommendation for deportation had been made at the time, and six months had passed before the Home Secretary signed the deportation order.

Whitehall sources indicated that the ground for such a deportation would have to be grave.

Our Diplomatic staff write: Mr Babaa, is not being deported under the new anti-terrorist legislation, but under an earlier Act.

Mr Babaa, who comes from Tulkarm in the West Bank, holds a Jordanian passport. But it is understood that he has asked to be sent to Saudi Arabia rather than Jordan.

The position of Palestinians from the West Bank is unclear since the Rabat summit meeting at *which King* Husain of Jordan withdrew his claims to the West Bank in favour of the Palestine Liberation Organization. At least one Palestinian from the West Bank living in Britain has been refused an extension of his Jordanian passport since the Rabat decision.

Wilson-Brezhnev talks planned

Mr Wilson is to visit Moscow for discussions with Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, early next year, Our Political Editor writes. After the Prime Minister had announced his mission in the Commons yesterday, it became clear that the visit will not occur before *February and will follow*, as usual, a meeting with the President of the United States.



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Features, pages 14 and 16
William Wallace describes the restrictions that may force universities to lower their standards; Ronald Butt on Labour's economic tightrope; Bernard Levin: Wild *imaginings that see a baby as a* guerrilla.

Letters: On Britain and the Middle East, from Miss Daphne Slee and others; Hospital service at holiday periods, from Mr J. M. Davis.

Arts, page 9
Sheridan Morley interviews Billy Wilder; Michael Ratcliffe on *The Sun is God* (Thames Television).

Sport, pages 10 and 11
Football: Young England player declines representative appearance; Golf: 1975 professional tournament programme reviewed by Peter Ryde:

Business News, pages 18-25
Stock market: Gold shares were active in London following the Franco-US agreement on revaluation of official gold holdings. The *FT* index gained 3.4 to 159.2.

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Lord Eccles adamant on new site for the British Library

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Lord Eccles, chairman of the British Library Board, yesterday reaffirmed his conviction that the new library building should be in Bloomsbury, opposite the British Museum. He said, however, that if the Government offered another site the board would obviously have to consider it, despite the damage that might be done to books by carting them up to somewhere in north London".

The reference to north London is bound to raise some eyebrows, since the principal alternative site proposed is the disused Somers Town railway goods yard next to St Pancras station. Camden council, with strong support from the Greater London Council, has vigorously opposed the destruction of the buildings on the Bloomsbury site and has argued the environmental advantages of using the derelict railway land fronting Euston Road.

Lord Eccles, who was presenting the first annual report since the board's inception last year, has championed the Bloomsbury site since he was minister responsible for the arts. Plans were drawn up by Mr Colin St John Wilson, the architect, in June last year; the Conservative Government supported the proposals and an interdepartmental steering committee was set up to examine the financial and environmental aspects.

With the change in government, however, the dispute has assumed political overtones. Last month, replying to Mrs Lena Jeger, MP for Holborn and St Pancras, South, Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, said he was not yet in a position to add to previous statements; but he is believed to favour Camden's proposals.

The Somers Town site occupies part of more than fifty acres of almost totally derelict land badly in need of redevelopment. Camden council recently bought 11 acres for housing but the rest is still owned by British Rail and the National Freight Corporation.

Last week the corporation announced a scheme for office buildings on the Somers Town site, to provide a new headquarters and printing works for News International, publishers of *The News of the World* and *The Sun*.

The latest estimated cost for the library is about £130m. Opponents of the Bloomsbury site say it would be cheaper to build elsewhere but Lord Eccles said yesterday that that still had to be convincingly demonstrated.

Our Arts Reporter writes: Lord Eccles said that the board's budget in its first full year was £12m, to offset which it expected to earn £1m in payment for services. The board had taken over the Office for Scientific and Technical Information, which formed the core of the research and development department; no other library in the world, save the Library of Congress, had such a powerful unit devoted to library and information techniques.

Referring to the integration of all the divisions that made up the British Library, Lord Eccles said that for the first time the four national collections of many millions of volumes had been brought together. "Progress, like knowledge itself, is indivisible, and we should shape our institutions so that they counter that fragmentation of society for which technology is so largely responsible", he said.

Rising anger among consultants over delay

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

Anger mounted yesterday among hospital consultants at what they see as unnecessary delay and procrastination by the Department of Health and Social Security over negotiations for their new contract. A member of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services said they were fed up.

More consultants decided yesterday to "work to contract". Thirty-five at Burnley decided to join 40 colleagues at Blackburn and 30 at Crewe in their action as a protest against delay. They work at Burnley General Hospital (720 beds), Victoria Hospital (163 beds), Reedyford Hospital, Nelson (62 beds) and the Hartley Hospital, Colne (44 beds).

As usual, emergency services will not be affected and, the consultants say, no patients will be allowed to suffer unnecessarily. But operations and admissions may be delayed.

The Owen working party, charged with considering the terms for a new contract and arrangements for private practice, was set up last April.

Junior doctors' threat: Representatives of Britain's 19,000 junior hospital doctors, meeting in Glasgow yesterday, threatened a work-to-rule followed by mass resignations from the National Health Service unless the Government agreed to ratify a 40-hour basic week by July 1 (the Press Association reports).

Dr Ian Thompson, secretary of the British Medical Association's hospital junior staff group council, said the doctors had agreed orally upon the 40-hour contract with health service negotiators last September. But when the minutes of the meeting had arrived at the council the agreement mentioned only a "forward date".



Photograph by Harry Karr

Looking south along part of the M23 at Merstham, Surrey, which opens for traffic tomorrow.

Risks in preparing for Ulster debate

From Stewart Tendler
Belfast

Preparations for the Northern Ireland constitutional convention next spring are demanding much finesse from Stormont officials seeking a suitable chairman and procedure acceptable in Ulster's hypersensitive political atmosphere.

Failure to do so, and to prevent the shadow of Whitehall and Westminster from looming too large might disrupt the debate.

The name of the chairman will be announced in the new year. No one yet knows if Mr Rees, the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, has found a "person of high standing and impartiality from Northern Ireland". Both the White Paper proposing the convention and the discussion paper issued in Belfast last month speak in those terms, but the Act establishing the convention is less specific.

If there is no acceptable Ulsterman to take the chair Mr Rees will have to think carefully before using that potential escape clause. Some Ulster "loyalist" politicians would not welcome an Englishman, although a Scot might be suitable.

Some parliamentarians feel that the appointment, suggested in some quarters, of a judge would not be suitable because of the excitable nature of Northern Ireland politics, which in the ill-fated Assembly produced fist-fights and exchanges of insults.

Some of the procedure laid down for the Assembly caused ill feeling. This time the various parties are being asked to discuss what they want before Mr Rees sets down the procedure, which the convention, once started, can change if it wishes.

The opening address presents difficulties. A message from Mr Rees might irritate some loyalists, and one from the Queen might some republicans.

Once the convention is past the difficult opening stages, it is suggested, work might begin with a statement from each party on what it wants to see decided. That again, however, might cause demonstrations and walk-outs.

Difficulties arise over who will advise the convention members. It has been suggested that the political parties could have their own advisers, paid for by the Northern Ireland Office, rather than use civil servants, smacking of the English influence.

IRA ceasefire decision awaited by churches

From a Staff Reporter
Belfast

Protestant church leaders who met senior Provisional IRA members last week waited yesterday for confirmation that the movement's army council had met to decide on the churchmen's suggestions for calling a ceasefire.

Reports suggest that the council of eight, which includes Mr David O'Connell, the Provisional chief of staff, met yesterday at a secret venue.

Last week at a clandestine gathering in Feakle, co Clare, the churchmen left a number of ideas that might provide the basis for the first ceasefire by the Provisional IRA since mid-1972.

The ideas were put down on paper to be passed to the Provisional military leaders after some of them had fled the hotel meeting as Irish policemen approached to raid it. The churchmen's ideas have not been disclosed, but may involve some compromise around the Provisional IRA's avowed requirements for a ceasefire. These are an undertaking of a British withdrawal from Northern Ireland; the withdrawal of troops to their barracks; the end of internment and release of political prisoners; and a recognition of the right of Irish people to negotiate their own future.

IRA man jailed: Liam Coyle, aged 23, a Provisional IRA officer, said by a judge to be one of the most highly skilled bombmakers to come before the courts in Ulster, was jailed for 20 years yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Mr Coyle, of Nicholson Square, Londonderry, was convicted at Belfast City Commission of several explosives charges involving three incidents.

Embarking cards for Irish citizens

By Our Political Staff

Under new arrangements for landing and embarkation cards at United Kingdom ports, citizens of the Republic of Ireland travelling to places outside the common travel area (the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man) will have to complete landing and embarkation cards from March 1, 1975. So will citizens of Commonwealth countries. The requirement is to be made by statutory instrument under the Immigration Act, 1971.

Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, announced the change of practice in a parliamentary written answer yesterday. The arrangements are in addition to the completion of cards by passengers travelling between Great Britain and other places in the common travel area, which may be necessary under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1974.

The cards will provide a further safeguard against evasion of the 1974 Act and allow more reliable statistics to be kept about the movement of Commonwealth citizens. It is calculated that they will help speedier clearance of passengers, because immigration officers will no longer have to ask for the routine information that appears on a completed card: name, occupation, date and place of birth, sex, nationality, and full address in the United Kingdom.

But some MPs regard the change as one of those erosions of the liberty of the individual that are becoming necessary in the attempt to contain terrorist movements and activities.

Mother dies with children in fire

A woman and her three children were found dead last night at their flat in Patterdale House, off Oldfield Road, Salford, Greater Manchester. They were apparently overcome by fumes from a fire in a plastic armchair.

Salford police said the deaths were discovered by the father on his return from work. The fire had gone out when emergency services arrived.

More urged for teachers before freeze

By Our Education Correspondent

A warning that a wage and salary freeze is highly likely in the new year was made last night by Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Opposition spokesman on education. He was speaking at Chelmsford, in his constituency, a few days before publication of the Houghton report into teachers' pay.

He said the Government should implement the Houghton recommendations as quickly as it implemented the 30 per cent increases in nurses' pay awarded by the Halsbury committee in September. Teachers would have to negotiate further increases within the Burnham committee to take account of cost of living rises since May 24, the date of Lord Houghton's remit.

He estimated that without Houghton teachers' salaries would cost £1,130m during 1975.

Cambridge report opposes more mixed colleges

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

A report by the General Board of Faculties at Cambridge University has come out against any more mixed colleges for male and female undergraduates. It says that would endanger moves to get a balanced ratio of arts and science students.

Cambridge has five co-residential colleges for undergraduates and this week a sixth, Trinity Hall, announced that is to admit women students. The five are Clare, Sidney Sussex, Selwyn, King's and Churchill.

The committee headed by Professor Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Master of St Catharine's College, says: "The general board urge that few if any further colleges should become co-residential until evidence is forthcoming that the pool of women applicants has been significantly extended. It is in the long-term interests of both the colleges and the university that the move towards co-residence should progress in an orderly manner.

"If the arts/science ratio went up to 58 per cent arts, such an imbalance would present grave problems to the university."

The report, published yesterday, estimates that 53 per cent of men and 67 per cent of women read arts subjects. The report recommends that the ratio should be fifty-fifty within 10 years.

The committee also recommends that the proportion of postgraduates should be increased from 22.5 per cent to 25 per cent. It does not feel that the university should expand in the short term beyond the present number of 11,400 students, although it envisages that the university might grow to about 14,000 by the end of the century.

New Labour group seeks official recognition

By Our Political Staff

The Manifesto group of Labour backbenchers, which has been formed by moderates in the party to provide a counterweight to the influence of the left-wing *Tribune* group within the Parliamentary Labour Party, last night decided to ask Mr Mellish, the chief whip, for official recognition.

A meeting of 76 Labour MPs, including several former ministers and some parliamentary private secretaries to present ministers, elected the following as their officers:

Chairman: Dr Mabon (Greenock and Port Glasgow). Vice-chairmen: Mr Irwin (Houghton-le-Spring), Mr Michael Stewart (Hammersmith, Fulham); and Mr Wellbeloved (Bexley, Erith and Crayford). Secretary: Mr Horam (Gateshead, West).

Members of the steering committee are:

Mr Tinn (Teesside, Redcar), Mr. G. Cunningham (Islington, South, and Finsbury), Mr Marquand (Ashfield), Mr Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe), Mr Ford (Bradford, North), Mr Willey (Sunderland, North), Mr Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and Mr Walden (Birmingham, Ladywood).

Their objects are:

To work for the implementation of the policies set out in the Labour manifesto and to support the Labour Government in overcoming the country's acute economic difficulties.

To act as a forum for constructive discussion designed to relate democratic socialist philosophy to the needs of the present age.

To endeavour to achieve a truly democratic socialist society through our representative parliamentary system.

Island plans landing taxes on visitors

Isle of Wight County Council decided yesterday to ask the Layfield committee of inquiry into local government finance to approve the principle of a landing tax on people visiting the island. It would be introduced, it was suggested, only if more money was needed as an alternative to a local income tax to relieve the island rates.

It would probably take the form of a differential fare on ferries. How the ferry operators would distinguish between islanders and visitors was not discussed yesterday. Councillors brushed aside a warning that they would run into opposition from the Government on the ground that such a tax interfered with the free passage of citizens from one part of the United Kingdom to another.

Mr Heath criticizes Mr Shore over EEC

By Our Political Staff

Mr Heath, Leader of the Opposition, yesterday wrote to Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, rejecting the minister's arguments that membership of the EEC is causing a worsening of the United Kingdom's trade performance with Europe.

Mr Heath said the underlying causes of the trade deficit, according to the Government's own statisticians, were, initially, the response of imports to the expansion of the home economy during 1972 and, later, to the rise in import prices caused by world commodity prices and depreciation of sterling against the European currencies.

That explanation, Mr Heath said, made no reference to the United Kingdom's membership of the Community. It brought out clearly the influence of other important factors which had affected Britain's trade with all areas both before and after the United Kingdom became a member of the EEC.

Mr Heath said that neither Mr Shore nor his statisticians had produced any evidence that demonstrated that the EEC had made Britain's deficit worse than it would otherwise have been.

"Will you or your department therefore now publish any evidence you have of the harm done by the EEC membership to our trade, and any estimates of the extent of that harm?", Mr Heath wrote. "Unless and until you do so, you should withdraw your allegations."

GLC to consult Government on land plans

The Greater London Council voted last night to make urgent representations to the Government over its land acquisition proposals which are due for legislation in the new year. It is concerned that the Government's proposals may not achieve its aims on the public ownership of development land.

In proposed evidence to be given to the Royal Commission on the Press the council welcomed increasing coverage given to Greater London government but complained of an overall impression too often given of "piecemeal and superficial coverage".

The council called for the training of young journalists in the work of local government.

Chief officer going: Haringey council said last night that Mr Brian Cooper, aged 52, would retire as chief executive after differences of view (the Press Association reports). He will start three months' leave of absence on January 1 and be retained as a consultant on a "diminishing basis" over three years.

Singer denies six driving offences

Dorothy Squires, the singer, yesterday denied at Lewes Magistrates' Court six alleged motoring offences: driving on a restricted road at more than 50 mph, using an uninsured car, using a car without a test certificate, driving without a licence, failing to produce insurance and test certificates and failing to produce a driving licence.

Inspector Ronald Cockerton, for the prosecution, said Miss Squires had driven at between 60 and 64 mph between Lewes and Brighton last December 23, when there was a speed limit of 50 mph. She had elected to produce the necessary documents within five days at Bexley police station, but had not done so.

Miss Squires, who was not legally represented, asked Police Constable Peter Clifford, the observer in the police car, if he had recognized her while the police car was following hers. He replied that he had seen only a floppy hat and fair hair.

Miss Squires said she had never had a large, floppy hat. She asked if PC Clifford would have recognized the car as hers. "It has been in the papers many times", she said.

He answered: "I would not have recognized you, with or without your glasses or your car."

He had not known who she was until she said when he stopped her car: "I am Dorothy Squires."

Miss Squires said yesterday: "I am not an egomaniac. I never use that expression".

She asked for an adjournment to enable her solicitor to be present. The case was adjourned to January 7.

Dispute costs 1m newspapers

Three national newspapers lost between them more than a million copies on Monday night because of industrial action by members of the National Graphical Association over pay.

The Daily Telegraph lost 220,000 copies, the *Daily Mail* 342,000 and the *Daily Express* 470,000. The council of the Newspaper Publishers Association, which represents Fleet Street proprietors, met yesterday and is likely to do so again today.

Botterill holds lead with 4th-round draw

From a Chess Correspondent
Llangennech, Dyfed

By winning his unfinished game against W. R. Hartston from the third round and then drawing with another dangerous rival, M. F. Stean, in the fourth round, G. S. Botterill maintained his leading position in the British Chess Championship play-off tournament yesterday.

Scores:

Botterill, three points out of four; A. J. Mestel, 1½ and one adjourned out of four; M. J. Haygarth and M. F. Stean, 1½ out of three; R. Bellin, one and one adjourned out of three; A. H. Williams, one and one adjourned out of four, and W. R. Hartston, ½ and one adjourned out of three.

Round four results: Stean v Botterill; Pirc defence: drawn. Hartston v Williams: Ruy Lopez: adjourned. Mestel v Bellin: Ruy Lopez: adjourned. Haygarth had the bye.

Adjourned game from round three: Botterill beat Hartston.

Talks on pupil indiscipline

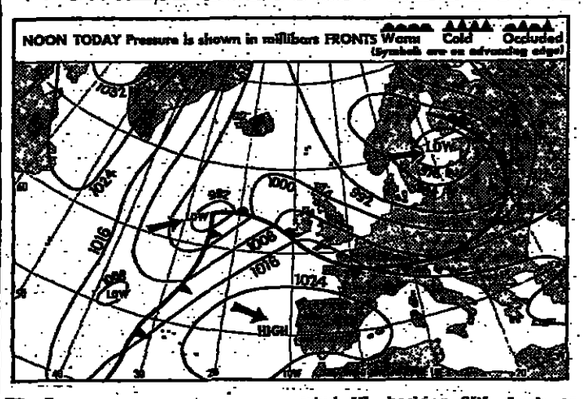
The Government is to hold national talks with local authorities and teachers about indiscipline in schools, Mr Ernest Armstrong, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in the Commons yesterday.

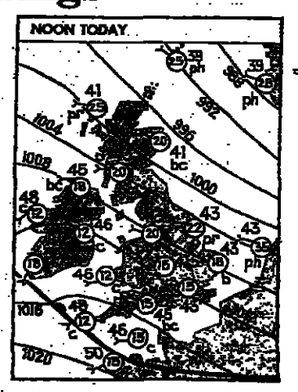
Consultative documents for discussion were being prepared, he said.

Correction

The name of Mr Ray Fletcher, MP for Ilkeston, was wrongly included in the list that appeared in later editions of *The Times* yesterday of Labour backbenchers who voted against the Government's defence policy in the Commons on Monday night. It should have been Mr Ted Fletcher, MP for Darlington.

Weather forecast and recordings





Today

Sun rises: 8.2 am. Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon rises: 10.28 am. Moon sets: 9.9 pm
First Quarter: December 21.
Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.33 am
High water: London Bridge, 4.14 am, 6.8m (22.4ft); 4.44 pm, 6.9m (22.5ft). Avonmouth, 9.43 am, 11.9m (39.2ft); 9.58pm, 11.5m (37.7ft). Dover, 1.19 am, 6.6m (21.5ft); 1.40 pm, 6.2m (20.4ft). Hull, 8.50 am, 6.5m (21.4ft); 8.40 pm, 6.8m (22.4ft). Liverpool, 1.39 am, 7.8m (25.6ft); 1.51 pm, 8.2m (26.8ft).

A deepening depression to W of Ireland will move NE and a trough of low pressure will advance from SW across the British Isles.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, central S England: Rather cloudy, occasional rain; wind W, backing SW, fresh or strong; max temp 8°C (46°F).

East Anglia, Midlands, E England: Sunny intervals at first, then cloudy with slight rain at times; wind W, backing SW, fresh or strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Rather cloudy, rain at times, hill fog patches; wind W, strong, perhaps gale force at times; max temp 12°C (54°F).

N Wales, NW and central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Becoming cloudy with period of rain preceded by snow in places, mostly on hills, hill fog; wind SW to W, strong to gale; max temp 8°C (46°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth: Sunny spells, becoming cloudy later with rain, preceded by snow in places, mostly over hills; wind W, moderate, backing S, fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Shetland: Sunny spells, wintry showers; wind W, backing S, moderate or fresh; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Cloudy with rain in many areas at first, then brighter with showers; snow at times in N, becoming rather cold with night frost.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind NW, gale, slowly decreasing to fresh or strong; sea very rough, decreasing to moderate or rough.

English Channel (E), St George's Channel: Wind NW, strong, decreasing to moderate or fresh and backing SW later; sea rough, decreasing to light or moderate.

Irish Sea: Wind NW, strong or gale force, slowly decreasing to moderate or fresh and backing S later; sea very rough, becoming moderate.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm 9°C (48°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 61 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.8 hrs. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,003.8 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

WEATHER REPORT YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; th, thunder.

	C	F		C	F		C	F		C	F
Algiers	s	16	61	Cologne	r	6	43	Las Palmas	f	19	66
Amsterdm	r	8	46	Copenhgn	r	3	37	Lisbon	s	18	64
Athens	s	18	64	Dublin	r	6	43	Locarno	s	4	39
Barcelona	f	10	50	Edinburgh	r	6	43	London	r	8	46
Beirut	th	23	73	Florence	c	4	39	Luxmbrg	r	4	39
Belfast	r	8	46	Frankfurt	r	2	36	Madrid	s	12	54
Berlin	th	6	43	Geneva	r	7	45	Majorca	s	13	55
Biarritz	s	12	54	Gibraltar	s	16	61	Malaga	s	16	61
Birmingham	s	9	48	Guernsey	r	9	48	Malta	s	19	66
Bristol	r	7	45	Helsinki	r	1	34	Manchstr	c	8	46
Brussels	r	7	45	Innsbruck	c	3	37	Moscow	c	-1	30
Budapest	r	2	36	Istanbul	c	6	43	Munich	c	3	37
Cardiff	r	6	43	Jersey	c	9	48	Naples	s	10	50
								New York	c	7	44
								Nice	r	10	50
								Nicosia	s	21	70
								Oslo	r	2	36
								Paris	r	9	48
								Reykjvik	r	-2	28
								Rome	r	11	52
								Rovaniemi	r	-7	19
								Stockhlm	s	3	37
								Tel Aviv	s	17	63
								Venice	s	7	45
								Vienna	r	1	34
								Warsaw	c	-1	30
								Zurich	r	7	45

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HINE connoisseurs' cognac

Miners seek pay review at quiet meeting with NCB

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday put the full spectrum of their views to the National Coal Board, including a demand for a "substantial" but unspecified increase in wages.

Mr Joseph Gormley, moderate president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and Mr Michael McGahey, communist vice-president, spent two hours with Mr Norman Siddall, deputy chairman of the board, and other top officials arguing for a comprehensive review of wages and conditions in the industry. The board undertook to reply in the second week of January.

Yesterday's unsensational meeting was the outcome of last week's 14 to 12 vote by the miners' executive not to pursue a militant pay claim of £30 a week on basic rates for the industry's 270,000 miners. That vote was upheld by Mr Gormley after it had been declared invalid by Mr McGahey while he was temporarily in the chair because Mr Gormley was ill.

The cautious start to bargaining a new wage contract for the miners will be the main subject at a special meeting of the union executive this morning. Although the powerful group of left-wingers is not expected to try to revive its abortive attempt to tie the union to a militant claim, it has not dropped out of sight and is likely to reappear as an ambition put to rank-and-file miners.

Mr Gormley, after yesterday's talks, said: "We put our ideas to the board and they have given us some indication of theirs. No figures were mentioned."

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

"Does ITT give a damn about Britain's balance of payments?"

Facts can sometimes be uncomfortable.

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Last year, ITT companies in Britain paid over £12 million in Corporation Tax and more than £73 million in wages and salaries. They invested £8.6 million in new production facilities and £9.5 million in research and development.

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HOME NEWS

'Shadow' jurors disagreed with one court verdict in four, penal research report says

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

"Shadow" juries introduced into courts disagreed with the real jury in seven cases out of 28 in an experiment. In five cases they were prepared to find the accused person guilty, but the real jury found him innocent. In the remaining two, the shadow jurors disagreed with the finding of the real ones that the accused was guilty.

The experiment was conducted by the Oxford Penal Research Unit. In its report, published today, Mrs Sarah McCabe, senior research officer, and Mr Robert Purves, now a barrister, emphasized that in 21 trials out of 28 real and shadow juries were in substantial agreement.

"In each of these cases not 10 or 12, but between 20 and 24 men and women came to the same decision about the guilt or innocence of the defendent."

Acquittals were fractionally fewer than convictions where the two juries agreed, but, on the whole, shadow juries were more inclined to convict than to acquit. The report comments:

There may be several reasons for this, but at least one of them must be the feeling of the real jury that the consequences of conviction, regardless of the sentence, are grave and that to acquit, where acquittal is at all possible, is better than to convict.

Throughout our shadow jury deliberations there are scattered references to the consequences of conviction. The agreement of real and shadow jury verdicts persuades us that this consideration was equally present in the minds of the authentic jury.

The shadow jurors were selected from the electoral roll by the usual system. They heard all the evidence, sitting as the public in the court, then went off to reach conclusions.

The unit says a surprisingly large proportion of people from all classes agreed to give up a day for the experiment. They were paid the normal jury rate. The cases chosen, with the cooperation of the courts, were those likely to take no more than a day. They varied from malicious wounding to larceny, motoring, and drug offences and assault on the police.

Unlike the real jury, the shadow one found innocent a man charged with receiving. His explanation was that he bought the goods from somebody who had reason to have obtained them honestly.

Transcripts of the shadow juries' deliberations in that case show how argument swung members round to the belief that the prosecution had not proved its case. Originally seven on the shadow jury thought the man guilty.

The second case in which the shadow jury disagreed with the real one and thought a man innocent was over a burglary. The transcript discloses a reluctance by the shadow jury to accept police evidence of what a man said when he was first asked to go to the police station.

We're just going on one man's word against another man's word. . . .

One man's against a policeman's. Why does a policeman make any difference?

He's trained to take things, these things, and to remember them.

I don't know, all this talk about his being a policeman. It's a man against a man. You should treat that policeman as you would any other witness.

I don't question the policeman's honesty, just the phrasing; and you're about to condemn a man, by the way, on one sentence which another person wrote down.

In another case, involving a woman accused of receiving, one juror said:

They (the police) know that she's guilty, but they just can't pin it on her, and therefore, being as they can't pin it on her, she must be given the benefit of the doubt. That's why I voted not guilty.

A second juror replied, heatedly:

This is what you are doing though, supporting a criminal, a known criminal.

The report says that usually the shadow juries left the court room with a high level of agreement about their ultimate verdicts. There were few cases where more than five members were persuaded to change their opinion.

The shadow juries showed determination in looking for evidence upon which convictions could be based. When it seemed inadequate, they were not prepared to allow their hunch that the defendant was involved in some way in the offence charged to stand in the way of acquittal.

The criminality or otherwise of certain types of behaviour was a matter for discussion and consideration in the light of all the circumstances of the offence and the defendant's explanation of his part in it. The report adds:

Prosecutors rely on the court and jury, rather than the CID interview room, not merely for proof of guilt but for the definition of crime which the law itself is inadequate to provide.

Defendants choose jury trial so that their behaviour, their character, and their reputation may be evaluated by their fellow citizens. For those who make this choice, there is the inevitable hazard of the varying response of jurors, but from the evidence of the shadow jury discussions there was also a strong sense of equity that took over when all the evidence had been considered.

The Shadow Jury at Work, by Sarah McCabe and Robert Purves, Oxford Penal Research Unit (Basil Blackwell, Oxford, £1).

Local arts spending up by 16 pc last year

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

Local authority spending on the arts and museums in 1972-1973 amounted to between £14.7m and £15.5m compared with more than £70m on public libraries, more than £300m on social services and about £2,500m on education, an Arts Council survey reports today.

There are few signs of any dramatic increase in local authority spending on the arts this year, although the survey notes the development of civic support.

The average estimated increase for 1973-1974 is 16 per cent, including 12 per cent for the Greater London Council and 17 per cent for the five most populated county boroughs.

The 706 authorities who answered the survey, about half those questioned, spent the equivalent of 0.11p rate on grants and contributions. Other sources had established that those authorities which did not reply spent at least £900,000.

But where expenditure by the two groups was able to be compared, the non-respondents had contributed at half the rate or less. It was thus unlikely that they would have spent as a whole more than £460,000, with about £40,000 on direct promotions.

Replies to the survey, conducted just before reorganization, came mainly from the larger authorities, practically all the main cities, 78 per cent of county boroughs, 74 per cent of county councils and 94 per cent of London boroughs.

The survey notes distortions caused by biennial or triennial arts festivals, giving a nil return one year but many thousands of pounds the next, and to the fact that for some authorities the main support goes to the local museum or art gallery.

Others give "hidden" subsidies by publicizing arts organizations, providing officers to act in voluntary capacities and giving rent and rate relief.

The new local authorities inherited uneven provision for the arts. Many new district councils covered areas with no tradition of public spending on the arts; while a strong civic tradition of support for the arts has developed in other areas, particularly in recent years.

The Arts and Museums 1972-73 (Arts Council Publications Department, 105 Piccadilly, London, W1V 0AU, £1).



Sir John Cohen, founder of Tesco Stores, joined a pre-Christmas celebration at the Camden High Street store yesterday.

Tomato me lobby MPs for oil cost aid

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

Tomato growers from Clyde valley will lobby MP London today for help to their industry. At the enc the year the fuel subsidy tomato growers ends and u present EEC regulations not be replaced. That, they will expose a thousand pe employed in tomato growin the Clyde valley to the effect of rising fuel costs place the Dutch and Belg growers in a vastly b position.

The Clyde valley growers bitter because they were couraged by the Governm and an investment of £ in new glasshouses to produ type of tomato that g swiftly but demands much heat. In the meantime fuel have risen from £2,000 an in 1971 to £5,300. When subsidy is removed the cost soar to £8,500 an acre.

"The Dutch have acces unlimited sources of cheap When the subsidy goes Britain they will be up to £ an acre better off than Scottish growers. The indu here will simply collapse grower said yesterday.

Already a large ton bearing area has not been s for next year's crop. The in try is convinced that it ca remain competitive without fuel subsidy. Growers are demand it should be mainta until, it is hoped, they have benefit of North Sea oil, as Dutch have the advantag North Sea gas.

Another grower pointed that the Clyde valley accou for four fifths of Sco tomato production. Whole prices have increased by more than a fifth over the five years while wages in industry had risen by more three tenths for men and for women in the past months alone.

Half of Britain's tor requirements are imported although Scotland grows 7 tons a year now that fi is likely to fall dramatica "All we shall be as for is to have equal trading producers in Europe", grower said. "In order to b even we must have a yiel 65 tons an acre. The return us in 1968 was 10.3p a po Last year it was 11.1p a po and costs have gone sky hi

Mr James Brown, a gro in Lanarkshire, said he reduced his tomato crop f 10 acres to four and unless market improved he w cease production.

Law Society clears Colonel Brooks

The Law Society announced yesterday that it is to take no action against Colonel John Brooks, who figured in the recent "bottom-spanking" libel action. He will be allowed to remain a practising solicitor. The society said that its professional purposes committee had decided that the facts revealed were relevant to his private rather than his professional life.

"In arriving at their decision the professional purposes committee were nevertheless not unaware of the adverse and widespread publicity and the comments, during his summing-up, of Mr Justice Bristow."

Colonel Brooks, of Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, was awarded ½p damages in the High Court last month in a libel action against the *Sunday People*. It had alleged that he lured girls into a "sex trap" on his motor cruiser on the Thames. Colonel Brooks, a former mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, denied the allegations and said he spanked girls only with their consent.

Mr Foot cool over press freedom talks

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, gave a guarded reception yesterday to the call by the Newspaper Society for an urgent conference on press freedom and the closed shop.

He told MPs in the Commons standing committee considering the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill that he would consider the letter from Mr W. M. Young, president of the Newspaper Society, asking him to invite the National Union of Journalists, the Institute of Journalists, the Newspaper Society, Guild of Newspaper Editors and others "concerned about safeguards for press freedom" to a conference.

But he added: "I doubt very much whether a conference of that character is the right way to deal with these matters. The best place to deal with this question is the House of Commons."

The Newspaper Society initiative had been welcomed by Mr Prior, opposition spokesman on employment, who said that something would have to be written into the Bill to safeguard press freedom. He welcomed the fact that the committee was to adjourn until January 14, and hoped that Mr Foot would use the recess to find a way round the difficulty.

The committee was continuing consideration of an opposition amendment to retain in the Bill provisions relating to safeguards dealing with arbitrary exclusion or expulsion of members from trade unions.

Mr Foot, winding up the debate, said the question how to protect people in a closed-shop situation was of great importance. More individuals would be protected by the tribunal which had been devised than by anything suggested by the Opposition. He hoped it would be given a fair trial.

The editors' difficulty could not be overcome by law. That was why he was strongly in favour of the NUJ initiative for discussions towards devising terms that could be put into union membership agreements.

The Opposition amendment was rejected by 11 votes to nine.

In brief

Judith Ward jail move

Judith Ward has joined the Price sisters in Durham jail. All are in the women's top security wing converted recently from that which formerly held the mail train robbers and other long-term men prisoners.

The Price sisters were moved from Brixton prison on Sunday. Miss Ward, aged 25, is serving a sentence of 30 years for the M62 coach-bombing.

Egypt official's theft

A man caught stealing a pair of trousers from a West End store was director of Egypt's Ministry of Industry, in London to attend a conference on behalf of his government, the Marlborough Street Magistrate was told yesterday. Fuad Ahmed Sobhy, aged 48, was fined £50 for the £3.99 theft.

Baggage men back

Baggage loaders in British Airways' domestic division returned to work at Heathrow yesterday after a four-day dispute, during which passengers had to carry their own cases.

Runway extension plan at Yeadon doomed

From Ronald Kershaw
Wakefield

The penultimate seal on the fate of plans to extend the 5,400ft runway at the Leeds-Bradford Airport at Yeadon was firmly placed by the Policy and Resources Committee of West Yorkshire County Council yesterday. By 11 votes to five it opposed extension.

West Yorkshire County Council now joins Leeds Metropolitan Council in opposition to extensions, leaving Bradford Metropolitan Council alone in on the 2,000ft extensions, estimated to cost some £5m at 1974 prices, has developed into a political battle with Labour members against and Conservatives for. It is still possible that the airport committee will come out in favour of extensions but it would be an empty gesture because money would not be forthcoming from West Yorkshire and Leeds councils.

The recommendation rejecting the extensions said the runway should be kept open pending further investigation and that the county council should vigorously pursue the case for an airport providing a full service to the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

Law to protect confidences suggested

By Our Legal Correspondent

A tort of breach of confidence should be created by statute, the Law Commission proposes provisionally in a working paper published today. It would protect trade secrets and personal information and would replace the existing common law action for breach of confidence, the scope of which, the Law Commission says, is uncertain and confusing.

The new tort should be based on "breach of a statutory duty of confidence not to disclose or use information acquired in confidence except to the extent that such disclosure or use is authorized by the person to whom the duty is owed". The Law Commission's study follows the view of the Younger committee on privacy, in 1972, that actions for breach of confidence could be of great value in the protection of privacy.

Three categories of the tort are suggested by the Law Commission. First, where disclosure or use of information would deprive the person to whom the duty of confidence was owed from gaining financially from it. A typical example, the report says, would be where confidential particulars of an invention are used so that the inventor himself is unable to exploit it.

The second category is where disclosure would cause direct financial loss to the person. An example given is when one person reveals the circumstan of another's divorce kno that his employer would dis him when he learnt it.

The third is where disclo would cause distress. The port cites the case of some revealing the confidential that his informant was a ho sexual.

The Law Commission poses defences to the tort, cluding lawful authority to close, privilege, public inte and not knowing there wa duty of confidentiality.

It also suggests a new of disclosing or using infor tion obtained unlawfully.

The Law Commission, Wor Paper 58, Breach of Confid (Stationery Office, £1.20).

Proposers of candidates for Tory leadership will not be named

The procedure for selecting the leader of the Conservative Party was issued yesterday. The document states:

Timing of elections and general responsibilities:

1. If the position of leader of the party is vacant, an election shall be held as early as possible.
2. Otherwise there shall be an election in the House of Commons beginning within 28 days of the opening of each new session of Parliament, except that in the case of a new Parliament the election shall be held not earlier than three months nor later than six months from the date of assembly of that Parliament. The actual date will be determined by the leader of the party in consultation with the chairman of the 1922 Committee.
3. The chairman of the 1922 Committee will be responsible for the conduct of all ballots and will settle all matters in relation thereto.

Nominations and list of candidates:

4. Candidates will be proposed and seconded in writing by MPs in receipt of the Conservative whip. The chairman of the 1922 Committee and scrutineers designated by him will be available to receive nominations. Each candidate will indicate on the nomination paper that he is prepared to accept nomination, and no candidate will accept more than one nomination.

The names of the proposer and seconder will not be published and will remain confidential to the scrutineers. Nominations will close by noon on a Thursday five days before the date of the first ballot.

5. If only one valid nomination is received, the chairman of the 1922 Committee shall declare this person elected.

If more than one valid nomination is received, the chairman of the 1922 Committee and his scrutineers will publish a list of the valid nominations and immediately transmit a copy to the two vice-chairmen of the 1922 Committee, the Chief Whip in the House of Commons, the chairman of the National Union, the chairman of the executive of the National Union, the president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, the chairman and deputy chairman of the party, the chairman of the party in Scotland, the leader of the party in the House of Lords and the Chief Whip in the Lords.

Procedure for Consultation with Members of the Party outside the House of Commons.

6. During the period between the close of nominations and the date of the first ballot, it shall be the responsibility of the constituency associations, represented by Conservative MPs, to inform the member of their views regarding the candidates.

7. Similarly, the leader of the party in the Lords and the Chief Whip in the Lords will make such arrangements as appropriate to obtain the views of peers in receipt of the Conservative whip.

8. In order that all sections of the party shall be consulted, area chairmen of the National Union will obtain the opinions of constituency associations, through their chairmen, and report their findings to the chairman of the National Union and the chairman of the executive of the National Union.

In Scotland the area chairmen will similarly consult and report to the president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association. They will also report to Conservative MPs within the area of their responsibility the views of constituencies not represented by a Conservative MP.

9. The leader of the party in the Lords, the Chief Whip in the Lords, the chairman of the National Union and the chairman of the executive of the National Union, together with the president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, will on the Monday attend a meeting of the executive of the 1922 Committee for the purpose of conveying to them the collective views of the peers in receipt of the Conservative whip, the National Union and the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association respectively.

First ballot:

10. The first ballot will be held on the Tuesday immediately following. For this ballot the scrutineers will prepare a ballot paper listing the names of the candidates and give a copy for the purpose of balloting to each MP in receipt of the Conservative whip.

11. For the first ballot each voter will indicate one choice from the candidates listed.

12. Where any members are unavoidably absent from the House on that day, through sickness or by being abroad, the scrutineers will make arrangements to receive their votes.

13. The ballot will be secret and neither the names of those who have voted for a particular candidate nor the names of those who have abstained from voting shall be disclosed by the scrutineers.

14. If, as a result of this ballot, one candidate both (i) receives an overall majority of the votes of those entitled to vote and (ii) receives 15 per cent more of the votes of those entitled to vote than any other candidate, he will be elected.

15. The scrutineers will announce the number of votes received by each candidate, and if no candidate satisfies those conditions a second ballot will be held.

Second Ballot

16. The second ballot will be held on the following Tuesday. Nominations made for the first ballot will be void. New nominations will be submitted by the Thursday, under the same procedure and with the same arrangements for consultation as described in paragraphs 4—9 for the first ballot, both for the original candidates if required and for any other candidates.

17. The voting procedure for the second ballot will be the same as for the first save that paragraph 14 shall not apply. If, as a result of this second ballot, one candidate receives an overall majority of the votes of those entitled to vote, that candidate will be elected.

Third Ballot

18. If no candidate receives an overall majority, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes at the second ballot will be placed on a ballot paper for a third and final ballot on the Thursday following.

19. For the final ballot each voter must indicate two preferences amongst the three candidates by placing the figure 1 opposite the name of his preferred candidate and the figure 2 opposite the name of his second choice.

20. The scrutineers will proceed to add the number of first preference votes received by each candidate, eliminate the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes and redistribute the votes of those giving him as their first preference amongst the two remaining candidates in accordance with their second preference. The result of this final count will be an overall majority of the votes cast for one candidate, and he will be elected.

Party Meeting

21. The candidate thus elected by the party in the House of Commons will be presented for confirmation as party leader to a party meeting constituted as follows:

MPs in receipt of the Conservative whip
Members of the Lords in receipt of the Conservative Whip
Adopted parliamentary candidates
Members of the executive committee of the National Union not already included in the above categories.

Bow Group call to Heath allies not to stand down

By John Groser

A direct appeal is made today to Mr Whitelaw and other senior Conservative politicians to make themselves available as candidates for the party leadership. The call comes from the influential Bow Group in the latest issue of *Crossbow*.

An editorial article argues that, now that a new system of electing the Conservative leader has been recommended by the Douglas-Home committee, "it would be wrong if those close to Mr Heath . . . give in to their natural reluctance to make themselves available. That would turn any election into a farce and deny the party the full choice it has a right to expect."

Mr Peter Lloyd, editor of *Crossbow*, and immediate past chairman of the group, who fought Nottingham, West, in both elections this year, apparently speaks for the party's younger element when he says: "It would be an act of great statesmanship if Mr Heath finally decided to stand down."

The article questions the widely held belief in the party that Mr Heath will be proved right by events. It also declares that "it is clear that the bulk of the parliamentary party are unhappy with Mr Heath's continued leadership".

Mr Lloyd and his fellow Groupers suggest that "over the next few years it is vital the Conservatives have a le who is able to articulate a p tive and liberal alternative state socialism that carries l conviction and humanity".

While conceding the for Prime Minister's private q ties of vision and compass the article says he is "p peramentally unsuited" for role that the new leader have to fulfil.

He is, it is alleged, abou lose his credibility as a ch pion of counter-inflation. Th is a growing belief that monetary policies of the Ho Administration fuelled infla and contributed substantially the country's present econo plight.

Crossbow concludes that main argument against Heath's continued leadershi that the party under him " ceased to know where it is go and what it stands for".

Tory reversals, it says, " vealed the absence of a cl view of how the economy s society work and what the r tionship of government sho be to both".

Leading article, page

'Monolithic' basis criticize

A recommendation submitted to Mr Heath by the East Midlands Area of the Conservative Party that the structure of the National Union of the party needs urgent revision is being supported by at least three more of the 11 areas.

The general suggestion that changes should take place in the party's structure was initially made by the East Midlands Conservatives in a report now published though commissioned more than a year ago. It proposes that the party's national structure should be based on counties, not areas.

Its conclusion that "the time has come for the party to face realities" is warmly applauded by some other of the area executive committees who also feel that "the monoli structure" contributed to failure to poll at full stren in this year's elections.

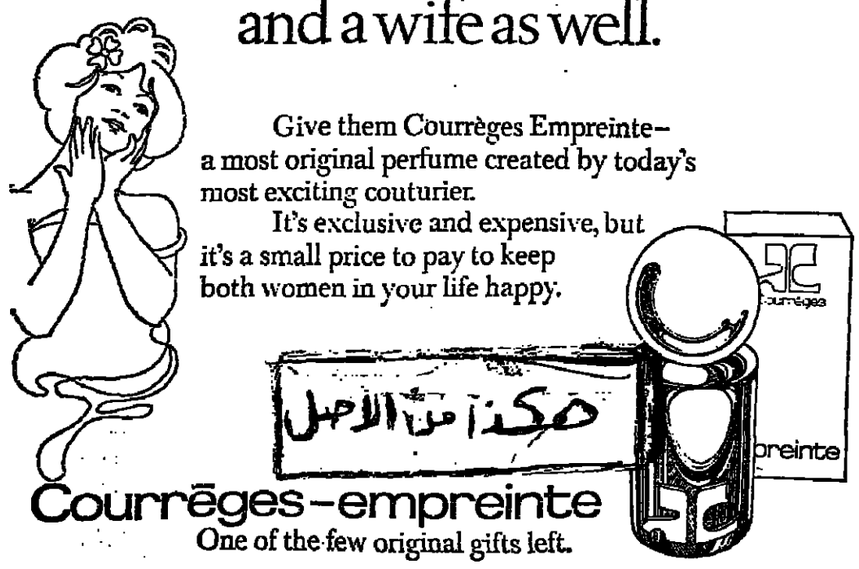
The review committee p special attention to concern the wastage of qualified pa agents. "It would seem tl the only long term answ would be to deploy agents o county basis."

If that recommendation w adopted, due regard would ha to be paid to the necessity employing full-time agents marginal seats and scatter constituencies.

One scheme proposed volves the employment separate agents in the margi or scattered seats, and oth agents to look after more th one constituency.



How to keep a super secretary and a wife as well.



Give them Courrèges Empreinte—a most original perfume created by today's most exciting couturier.

It's exclusive and expensive, but it's a small price to pay to keep both women in your life happy.

One of the few original gifts left.

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HOME NEWS

Extra night patrols after fire that killed 18 old people

From Arthur Osman
Nottingham

As Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, confirmed in Nottingham yesterday the need for an independent inquiry into Sunday's fire disaster, the county council ordered extra staff for night patrols at five homes similar to the devastated Fairfield Home at Edwalton.

Mr Richard Wilson, leader of the council, said five single-storey homes similar to Fairfield were lacking smoke-detector equipment. It was hoped that detectors would be installed in a month's time. Until then night patrols would be on duty to give additional *security at the homes in* Worksop, Bucknall, Burton Joyce, Kimberley, and Mansfield.

"These precautions are being taken in homes where, until Sunday's disaster, we did not foresee that there was an unacceptable *fire risk*", he said. "We are therefore playing safe until more thorough inquiries have established what risk there is and the best way to combat it."

The council's policy committee will be recommended today to make available the extra £36,000 needed to carry out extra fire precaution work in several homes for the elderly.

Mr Ernest Lester, chairman of the council, at its routine meeting yesterday, paid tribute to Mr Alfred Richings, who lives opposite the home and helped to save several lives, and to the assistant matron, Mrs Alice Johnson, and Mrs Jill Herbert, the night attendant. The council stood silent for a minute in memory of the 18 dead.

Mrs Castle had earlier met Mrs Herbert, who was close to tears as she showed the minister round the wrecked home. Mrs Castle talked with officials and the surviving elderly residents from Fairfield, who have been accommodated at The Oaks home in Nottingham.

Later she said she would be consulting Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, on the terms of reference for an inquiry and its constitution. They would be made known as soon as possible. A decision would also be made on whether it should be held in public.

"One of the points I have discovered with the local authority is that they reject suggestions that there was an over-concentration of infirm old people in this particular home", the minister said.

An interdenominational memorial service will be held at St Giles's, West Bridgford, at 10.30 am on December 23.

'Buy ticket on board' service next month

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British Airways is to introduce on January 12 the first scheduled shuttle service in Europe on which passengers will pay on board the aircraft and nobody will be left behind. It may extend the principle later to main centres throughout the Continent.

The shuttle service will be between London and Glasgow, on which British Airways carries 600,000 passengers a year. After January 12 there will be no need for any passenger to make an advance booking. Check-in time at the airports at either end will be reduced from the present 20 *minutes to 10 minutes*. Stewardesses will collect the £17 single fare on board, accepting cash, cheques, credit cards or government orders.

There will be no bar service or catering on the shuttle. *British Airways promises travellers* refreshments free of charge in the lounges before departure. It also guarantees that if there is a rush for any one flight, a second and even a third aircraft will be brought up.

London to Edinburgh, Belfast, Dublin, Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt are routes on which such services could be introduced within the next few years, Mr Roy Watts, *chief executive of British Airways' European division, said* yesterday.

Nine Trident airliners will be used on the London to Glasgow service, with 13 departures from London and 12 from Glasgow each weekday. That will more than *double the present aircraft* capacity on the route.

Captain Richard Twomey, manager of British Airways' domestic trunk services, said that as soon as an airliner on the shuttle service was full it would leave the terminal for take-off. A second airliner on stand-by would then be brought up. "This is not a hopeful promise but a very practical proposition", Captain Twomey said. "We shall never turn anybody away."

Tighter controls urged for building plastics

By Pearce Wright
Science Correspondent

Tighter control over the use of some plastic materials in buildings is suggested in a report, *Polymeric Materials in Fires*, produced by the Fire Research Station and the Building Regulations Professional Division of the Building Research Station.

It comments on anxiety prompted by incidents ranging from small domestic fires, *where burning of foamed-plastic* furniture reportedly intensifies faster and produces more smoke than traditional materials, to big disasters such as those at Summerland, on the Isle of Man, and at St Laurent du Pont, in France, where plastic materials were involved to a large extent together with other factors.

Because of the diffuse nature of the industries manufacturing and using polymeric materials, *accurate figures of* the amount going into buildings each year are apparently imprecise. The latest figures, for 1972, show 200,000 tonnes, of which 44,000 tonnes went into furniture. Analysis of the implication of specific materials in fires is obtained from the standard fire brigade report form K433. Although it is almost the only source from which information can be systematically gathered, the Fire Research Station report says the form is not suitable for collecting the necessary details about the involvement of specific materials in fires.

Available data indicate that in about a thousand fires, or 1 per cent of all those occurring in buildings, plastic materials are the first to ignite. In about another thousand fires plastic materials were used in the construction of the building, though those materials were not necessarily involved in the fire.

Forceps left in man's body killed him

A pair of surgical forceps left in a man's abdomen after a hernia operation caused his death within six weeks, an inquest at Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan, found yesterday. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

The inquest into the death of Mr George Henry Thomas, aged 56, of Aman Court, Cwmaman, Aberdare, had been told that Aberdare General Hospital nurses found the forceps missing after the operation. But no one told the surgeon.

Mr Peter Jenkins, deputy coroner, said there was an assumption that the forceps seen on a dropped instrument rack were the missing pair. The assumption persisted despite the fact that the forceps were never found.

"Why the surgeon was not informed I cannot understand," he said.

Dr William Reginald James, the pathologist who performed the post mortem examination, said the cause of death was intestinal obstruction due to herniation of the small intestine through part of the forceps.

Cathedral choir to disband

Westminster Cathedral's professional choir is to be disbanded because of costs. The choristers will probably leave after next Easter Day's services.

The decision was made by the Westminster Diocesan Council of Administration. The seven men choristers are expected to receive notice today.

School strike plan

Leaders of striking teachers who kept almost a million Scottish children off school yesterday plan to intensify their action if pay recommendations expected by Friday are "inadequate". More strikes are planned this week.

No appeal on rape sentence

Christopher John Graham, aged 18, jailed for life for raping Princess Anne's secretary, was refused leave to appeal against his sentence yesterday.

He pleaded guilty at Manchester Crown Court on June 20 to raping the secretary at Chelsea, to raping a Manchester doctor's wife, and to the attempted rape of an Iranian student.

Signalmen strike

A 24-hour strike by signalmen, which started at 6 am yesterday, halted Southern Region trains in Hampshire and Dorset, affecting thousands of commuters.

Employers' chief calls for new leaders to allow industry to expand

By Our Labour Editor

Mr Martin Jukes, the engineering employers' leader, *yesterday called for an unspecified* "new leadership" for Britain. He predicted that if the Government continued on its present course there would be a statutory policy on incomes *before Easter*.

Mr Jukes, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, singled out Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, for personal criticism. "I do not think for a *moment he provides the leader*ship we need", he said. The forthcoming Employment Protection Bill, was "union-based and biased".

Making his valedictory address to industrial correspondents, *Mr Jukes declined* to be drawn on the politician or public figure he had in mind to run the country. "Until we get firm leadership taking us in the direction which permits industry to expand we have no hope", he said.

"It is possible to have such leadership, as indeed was shown in France *when de Gaulle was* in power. French examples are not my favourite ones but no one can deny the stability that France got for a long period."

Without the right kind of leadership the Government would be forced *to resort to* a statutory incomes policy before Easter, Mr Jukes said. He put the odds at 5-1 on.

Mr Jukes, who retires as director general in two months told a luncheon in London of *the labour and* industrial correspondents' group: "There can be little doubt that if we continue on our present course we head for disaster." Recent legislation and counter-legislation by succeeding gov*ernments on* industrial relations had caused disorder. Mr Jukes continued:

This disorder is not only at the level of the CBI and the TUC, at the level of the unions and the EEF, but stretches downwards. One meets what seems to be a degree of irresponsibility at all levels.

I do not exclude engineering at the shop floor. Too often, district and branch officials lack influence over their members. Even union executives have no control over their members. We have seen examples recently where the shop floor has refused to accept their recommendations, indeed, the instructions, of the executive committee of their unions.

The shop floor has refused even to permit district officials to attend mass meetings and put the official point of view. One could be forgiven for doubting whether in some areas responsibility is *wanted by union officials. Union* members would do well to consider whether their abuse of collective power may not lead ultimately to anarchy.

Mr Jukes said the nation faced "a loss of credibility in unions and in institutions in industrial relations generally". Agreements would not be honoured and policies adopted nationally would be frustrated on the shop floor.

Harrow boy on arson charge

A schoolboy appeared at Harrow Magistrates' Court yes*terday, charged with setting* fire to a Harrow School house on November 25.

The charge stated that Simon Rhodes, aged 17, did by fire damage The Grove and endanger the life of John Meakin *and others. He was* allowed bail to appear at the court on January 28.

Foreign Office facade stays

The Old Public Offices in Whitehall, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is to be part rebuilt. Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons yesterday, that it had been decided to preserve the façades and many interiors.

'Retire early' plan to stop teacher unemployment

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Teachers should be encouraged to retire early to prevent unemployment as a result of the falling birth rate, Mr Stanley Hewett, general secretary of *the Association of* Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education, said yesterday.

He urged Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to consider a four-point plan to prevent unemployment of teachers and its "catastrophic impact on recruitment, which is already very seriously depressed".

The plan involves compensa*tion for teachers* retiring early; a limit on the number allowed to reenter teaching; extending the teacher-training course from three years to four; and more in-service training courses.

Mr Hewett told the association's council in London that because of the latest population trends there had been a gross overestimate of the school population in the 1980s.

He said: "*It is clear that a* teacher supply policy for a school population of eight million is going to be very different from one designed for a school population of 9,700,000. You cannot 'lose' 1,700,000 school*children and pretend that things* are much the same as they were."

The department must reform its policies by not later than Easter. The priority must be to secure employment for the trainees who are at college and who have been accepted for courses next September.

WEST EUROPE

Britain sees no threat to its North Sea oil from Community

From Roger Berthoud
Brussels, Dec 17

The idea that Britain's EEC membership poses a threat to North Sea oil was heavily discounted by Mr Eric Varley, *Secretary of State for Energy*, in Brussels today.

After his first meeting with the Energy Ministers of the Nine, Mr Varley said: "Providing it is accepted, as I think it is —at least it was not challenged today—that North Sea oil policy is under United Kingdom national control, I don't think there is a threat."

In a prepared statement, Mr Varley told today's meeting: "I am sure my colleagues will understand that our reserves of *oil and gas in the North Sea* must remain under our national control." Mr Varley thought it important that no one had challenged this remark. The Belgian Minister had emphasized his understanding.

Explaining the nature of the threat afterwards, Mr Varley said that at an earlier EEC council meeting there had been a suggestion for a policy of a true common market in energy products. This, he said, could *have implied a policy of maxi*mum depletion (exploitation) of reserves. But Britain had to husband its North Sea resources, which represented only two per cent of known world oil reserves, and the Government had made it plain that it would take powers over the rate of depletion. Oil was a finite product and it could not be replanted every year like French wheat.

The North Sea was not the *dominant issue at today's meet*ing, which amounted to a business-like, but unambitious, attempt to re-launch the EEC's ill-starred energy policy.

Other member states with energy resources also had worries. The Dutch wanted to make sure they would be able to sell their natural gas at adequate prices. The West Germans wanted assurances that if they invested heavily in their coal industry, that their coal would find a market even at high prices.

Less well-endowed partners, *particularly the Italians, were* afraid this might mean higher prices or Community subsidies.

The ministers did manage to approve various measures of conservation and diversification of supplies which could, if *effectively implemented, reduce* projected Community consumption by 15 per cent and cut dependence on external supplies from the 1973 level of 63 per cent to between 40 and 50 per cent by 1985.

But this was modest stuff compared with the oil-sharing pool and other arrangements of the Washington-backed energy consumers' group, now operating as the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Mr Varley emphasized the value which Britain attached to the work of the IEA, and insisted that EEC policy must be realistic and flexible. He pointed out that Britain was in a strong position to make a constructive contribution, not just *because it had its own natural* resources, but because it had deliberately maintained a strong coal industry and invested heavily in nuclear power. This already accounted for 10 per cent of all electricity *supplies*.

British companies will benefit to the tune of 7.35m units of account (pre-devaluation dollars) from a decision today to spend 42.4m units of account next year from Community *funds to stimulate research into* the extraction of hydrocarbons. Seal (UK) Ltd will get [illegible] for research into remotely-controlled production methods for use at a depth of more than 600ft under water. The remaining 960,000 units of account go to Lang, Atkins for developing new drilling platforms for deep-sea operations.

Redundancy veto rejected

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 17

The British Government, with the help of most of its partners in the European Community, today thwarted an ambitious Community idea to veto companies' plans to make workers redundant.

At a meeting of social affairs ministers of the Nine in Brussels only the French, with the support of the European Commission, were in favour of this stringent safeguard against mass dismissals.

The ministers were discussing new proposed Community laws to oblige firms to follow certain *practices in notifying and* compensating redundant workers.

According to British officials, Mr John Fraser, Under-Secretary at the Department of Employment, was opposed to the veto part of the proposed *scheme, principally because of* the difficulty of deciding who should pay for redundant workers to stay on.

French economy on right road for M Chirac

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 17

M Chirac, the Prime Minister, used the debate on the opposition motion of censure to draw a reasonably optimistic picture of the prospects of the French economy. He particularly emphasized the spectacular results achieved by the Government in foreign trade. The deficit had fallen from 3,000m francs in July (about £300m) to 218m francs in October.

On the price front, the trend was also favourable. The average increase had in the past three months been reduced to just over 1 per cent. November and December should see it fall below 1 per cent, the objective the Government had set itself.

"What can we conclude from this stocktaking?" he asked. "That we have won our economic gamble? I think to claim this would be premature. That we have lost it? It would be false and dishonest to pre*tend it. An objective analysis* of economic indices shows we are on the right road."

The Prime Minister added that in the first half of 1975 economic activity would cease to slow down, and production *should show a moderate* increase. He hinted that the Government might take steps to reflate then.

Former nun arrested in child cruelty case

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Dec 17

Signorina Maria Diletta Pagliuca, a former nun, who was sentenced to eight years and four months imprisonment for cruelty to sub-normal children under her care, in a home at Grotteferrata, was arrested *today on the coast near Rome.*

The case in which she was involved was one of the gravest instances of systematic cruelty to children in a home acknowledged by the ecclesiastical authorities. She was in provisional liberty while her appeal was heard and it had been feared that she might have fled the country.

Signorina Pagliuca was discovered hiding at the home of a woman whom she met while in prison awaiting trial. She was *found by carabinieri in a cup*board under a pile of blankets. She maintained during hearings of her case that far from being cruel, she was in fact a saint.

Inflation doubled in Belgium

Brussels, Dec 17.—Consumer prices in Belgium have risen an estimated 15.6 per cent this year compared with 7.3 per cent last year sources said today. The figure was provisional.—Reuter.

While John Bull makes up his mind, only the Irish among his partners care much about his decision

British opinion swings towards EEC

From David Cross
Brussels, Dec 17

The image of the European Community seems to be improving among the British public. But, as the day of decision for continued EEC membership approaches, most people in the six founder members of the Community appear not to care whether Britain stays in or pulls out.

These are two of the main findings of an opinion poll carried out by independent research organizations in the *Nine and published by the* European Commission in Brussels today. The survey, which was conducted between October 18 and November 22 this year, was based on the views of 9,000 people aged 15 and over.

The growing enthusiasm for the Community among Britons emerged most clearly from replies to the question: "If you were to be told tomorrow that (your country) was leaving the EEC, would you be very sorry about it, indifferent, or relieved?" In both Britain and Ireland, the percentage of people expressing regret has risen by 11 per cent in the past year from 20 to 31 per cent and *from 37 to 48 per cent respec*tively. In the case of Denmark and the six original members, attitudes have remained fairly constant, particularly during the period between May and November this year.

There are also more Britons now who believe that EEC membership is a "good thing". Over the past year or so the percentage has risen from 31 to 36. About the same number of Britons think that membership is a "bad thing" as a year ago (34 per cent in September, 1973, and 35 per cent in November, 1974).

On the delicate specific question of Britain's membership and how people in other EEC member states would react to a withdrawal, a mere 2 per cent of the French population and 8 per cent of the Dutch would *think the effect "very serious".* The Belgians appear to be most uninterested with a total of 78 per cent either not knowing or thinking it would not make much difference. The French, too, have a take it or leave it attitude among 68 per cent of their population.

By contrast, many more of the British, Danes and particularly the Irish think that Britain's withdrawal from the Community would be "very serious". The figures in these *countries are 18, 20 and 29 per* cent respectively.

The poll also analyses the various EEC problems which members of the public think are most serious at the present time. Nine out of 10 people throughout the Community thought a common fight against rising prices was "very important" or "important". Inflation *generally was singled out as the* most important problem confronting the Community, closely followed by the implementation of a common energy policy, environment, consumer protection and a common foreign policy in discussions with the United States and the Soviet Union.

Asked whether combined action by the Community or independent action by individual member governments would achieve the best results, about seven out of 10 people were in favour of joint action to deal with four major problems—a policy on energy supplies, the fight against inflation, dealings with the superpowers and the fight against pollution.

The results of the poll were as follows, all figures being in percentages:

If Britain decided to leave the European Community, what do you think the effect of this would be?

	B	D	WG	F	GB	Ire	It	L	N	EEC
Very serious	4	20	6	2	18	29	7	5	8	9
Rather serious	14	23	32	20	25	34	32	17	23	26
Rather good	3	5	13	8	14	9	3	3	11	9
Very good	1	9	3	2	11	8	1	4	3	4
Of no particular effect one way or the other	46	26	26	48	30	20	32	37	31	32
Don't know	32	17	20	19	12	0	25	34	24	20

Generally speaking, do you think that (your country's) membership of the Community is a good thing, a bad thing or neither good nor bad?

	The Six			Ireland			Denmark			Britain		
	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974
Good	63	67	69	56	43	50	42	35	38	31	33	36
Bad	4	5	6	15	25	24	30	31	35	24	30	35
Neither	19	18	17	21	19	22	19	24	25	22	19	20
No reply	14	9	8	8	8	4	9	10	7	13	9	9

If you were to be told tomorrow that (your country) was leaving the EEC would you be very sorry about it, indifferent or relieved?

	The Six			Ireland			Denmark			Britain		
	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974	Sept 1973	May 1974	Nov 1974
Very sorry	47	58	56	37	38	48	30	27	27	20	34	31
Indifferent	37	28	27	40	27	22	29	27	24	33	28	22
Relieved	2	4	4	17	28	24	28	31	35	37	40	32
No reply	14	14	13	6	7	6	12	15	14	10	8	9

Pressure to revalue Swedish currency

From Our Correspondent
Stockholm, Dec 17

The Swedish Government was under pressure today to adopt an incomes policy for the first time and eventually to revalue the currency.

Five leading economists, including Dr Gunnar Myrdal, the winner of this year's Nobel prize in economics, urged the Government to strive for a *package deal to curb inflation* by reducing pay claims and revaluing the krona. They also told the Government to borrow petrodollars to cover the soaring balance of payments deficit.

Mr Trister Wickman, the governor of the Swedish central bank, said in an interview today that the Government was not considering revaluation. He added that *de facto* revaluation had already occurred. Since September the value of the krona has risen by 6 per cent against the dollar.

Leading banking sources in Stockholm said that Mr Gunnar Sträng, the Finance Minister, was under pressure to adopt an incomes policy as part of a package deal involving a revaluation of the krona. There is on the other hand trade union pressure for pay rises of about 20 per cent.

It has been a rule in Sweden that the Government should not interfere with wage negotiations. But sources believe that international economic conditions, and prospects of a recession and mass unemployment next year, may force Mr Sträng to abandon that rule.



ICI wins the MacRobert Award, 1974

This year's MacRobert Award has been won by five men—T. J. P. Pearce, G. W. Bridger, P. Davies, J. T. Gallagher and D. Cornthwaite—inventors of the catalysts which enabled ICI Agricultural Division to introduce its high-efficiency, low-pressure process for the synthesis of methanol.

The Award is given for an outstanding innovation in engineering, physical technology or applied science which has enhanced national prestige and prosperity in the U.K.

It is made annually by the Council of Engineering Institutions, on behalf of the MacRobert Trusts and consists of a gold medal and £25,000.

Methanol is an important intermediate in the chemical industry for the manufacture of building materials, paints, plastics and textiles. Of the twenty-nine plants designed and constructed throughout the world since 1966, twenty-three use ICI's new process.

ICI Imperial Chemical Industries Limited

WEST EUROPE

Hint of Giscard shift towards Atlanticism

From Richard Wigg
Paris, Dec 17

President Giscard d'Estaing returned to Paris today from his meeting with President Ford in Martinique, completing a fortnight during which he has put his personal seal on French diplomacy. All round it represents a considerable personal success for the President who was also making his debut on the international scene.

Underlying it all—the meetings with Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, and with Mr Ford with the Paris EEC summit sandwiched in between—was the President's own realism about what France can and must do during the present crisis in the Western world.

He told television audiences on leaving Martinique: "The world now has to face such serious risks that the rule for France must be international cooperation".

A France more cooperative, especially with the United States over energy problems, was exactly what the other EEC leaders most wanted at the Paris summit meeting. The nine, both in Brussels and in the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, can now get down to concerting energy policies.

But in France the questioning has already begun whether to obtain American endorsement for his international conference between oil producing and consuming countries, President Giscard d'Estaing has not begun "slipping towards Atlanticism".

M Michel Jobert, who as Foreign Minister staged the clash with the Americans over energy in Washington in February, has now recommended "asking M Chirac (the Prime Minister) what he thinks of this reconciliation with the United States". He recalls that until now when France adopted a position contrary to American interests that was dubbed "Gaullist".

But except for *L'Humanité*, the Communist Party paper, which finds that the President has made "four grave concessions" to the Americans, the French press today supports him over the line he took. But it is a sober, not an enthusiastic support. "On energy, in particular", *Le Figaro* typically comments, "only a vague sketch of a compromise has emerged and on gold the Americans' concession does not really merit that word."

In the Fort de France communiqué there is no precise commitment by the United States to the holding of a conference between oil producers and consumers, and nothing is clear on the Third World element President Giscard d'Estaing originally proposed, French observers point out.

Dr Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, has left himself the rider that the consumer nations' preliminary positions must be "well prepared", but he promised not to adopt dilatory tactics. The original French and American positions on confrontation and collaboration with the oil-producing countries could easily re-emerge in all their force, *Le Monde* fears.

M Fourcade, the Minister of Economics and Finance, commenting on his talks in Martinique with Mr Simon, the United States Treasury Secretary, hardly played up the significance of the agreement on gold. The "real collaboration" between the United States and France would be seen in the coming months, he hinted, in the reorganization of the international monetary system.

The acceptance by France of an underlining in the communiqué of the importance of its cooperation with Nato for the security of Europe, is significant. The burying of the old dispute over French compensation for American installations in France when General de Gaulle pulled France out of the treaty organization in 1966, emphasizes symbolically the new Giscardian touch.

Some observers in Paris are speculating whether the two Presidents went further and discussed the role of French tactical nuclear weapons within the Nato defence system. But here President Giscard d'Estaing has to move extremely cautiously in view of the Gaullists. M Jean Lecanuet, the most pro-Atlanticist minister in the Government and leader of the Centrists, warmly praised the outcome of the Martinique meeting today, while the Gaullist party stayed silent.

M Giscard d'Estaing confirmed that he did discuss the so-called "arms contract of the century", the forthcoming replacement of the Starfighter by four Nato countries, with Mr Ford, but the impression in Paris is that collaboration, and a dividing of the markets, can eventually apply only to future aircraft and not to the present contenders.

Fred Emery writes from Washington: President Ford today distilled for congressional leaders the "spirit of Martinique" as his entourage is already calling the new entente with President Giscard d'Estaing.

Mr Ford is well pleased, and believes that the two leaders have helped to turn the Gaullist page.

Leading article, page 15

OVERSEAS

President Ford coaxes Congress into allowing military aid to Turkey for the time being

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 17

A last-minute compromise between President Ford and Congress has saved the foreign aid Bill, including military aid to Turkey. The Americans will continue to supply the Turkish armed forces until February 6.

The President will then have to certify to Congress that real progress is being made towards a settlement of the Cyprus dispute. The Administration hopes that Dr Kissinger's efforts will by then have borne at least some fruit, or promise of fruit, and that Congress will permit aid to continue.

The foreign aid Bill covers a total expenditure of $2,600m (£1,130m). Mr Ford and Dr Kissinger launched into an intensive bout of lobbying as soon as they returned from Martinique yesterday to save it. Dr Kissinger went to a meeting of congressional leaders in the House of Representatives last night, and the President summoned them to the White House this morning.

Ostensibly, the purpose of the meeting was to hear the President describe his meeting with M Giscard d'Estaing. He used the occasion instead to urge upon his recent colleagues the importance of preserving American influence in Turkey. Without it the American and therefore Western position in the eastern Mediterranean would be gravely weakened at a time when there was a danger of another Middle East war, and the Cyprus crisis would be no nearer solution.

The Senate had already been won over to the argument, and had passed the foreign aid Bill with a clause allowing $187m in aid to Turkey until mid-February. The House steadfastly refused to compromise and insisted on maintaining an earlier ban on aid which came into effect on December 10.

A joint committee of the two houses met several times without reaching a compromise and the whole Bill was therefore on the point of death. Aid to other countries would have continued under so-called continuing resolutions, but aid to Turkey would have stayed blocked.

President Ford has persuaded the House leaders to relent. He has thus survived a major test of his ability to win essential votes in Congress. It is a sign that despite the disastrous mid-term elections last month and the unkind things the inhabitants of Washington continue to say about him, Mr Ford can still round up the votes in Congress.

UN pressure grows for Namibia withdrawal

From Peter Strafford
New York, Dec 17

The Security Council today adopted a strongly worded resolution on Namibia (South-West Africa), designed to bring further pressure on South Africa to withdraw from the territory. The resolution was adopted unanimously after the African countries had agreed to some amendments proposed by Britain, France and America.

The resolution condemns the "illegal occupation" of Namibia by South Africa, and the introduction of "racially discriminatory and repressive laws and practices". It then sets out a series of measures that should be taken by South Africa, and states that the Council will meet again on the subject on or before May 30, 1975, to review compliance with them.

In the event of non-compliance, it concludes, the Security Council will consider "the appropriate measures to be taken under the Charter".

It was this last paragraph which was the main issue in the backstage negotiations before today's vote. In their original draft the Africans had wanted to set an earlier date. They had also wanted to make a specific reference to the possibility of introducing sanctions against South Africa if the Security Council was not satisfied with the progress.

The Western countries were opposed to this, however. British officials argued that sanctions against South Africa would be unrealistic, and would tend to strengthen the hard-liners in South Africa at the expense of the moderates.

Today's resolution demands that South Africa make a "solemn declaration" to the Security Council that it will comply with past resolutions of the United Nations, and with the 1971 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which said that South Africa's mandate was ended. The declaration should also say that South Africa recognizes the territorial integrity and unity of Namibia.

The resolution demands that South Africa take the necessary steps to withdraw its "illegal administration" from the territory and "transfer power to the people of Namibia".

Pending this transfer, it is required to comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, release all Namibian political prisoners, end all discriminatory and repressive practices and allow all Namibians presently exiled for political reasons to return without danger of arrest.

In a statement after the vote, Mr Rashleigh Jackson, of Guyana, who is the president of the United Nations Council for Namibia, made it clear that the Africans and their supporters were still considering sanctions against South Africa.

Rockefeller swearing-in ceremony tomorrow

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Dec 17

Mr Nelson Rockefeller will take his oath of office as Vice-President of the United States on Thursday afternoon, an hour after the House of Representatives has approved his nomination. The ceremony will take place in the Senate.

It is taken for granted that the House will follow the Senate's lead and confirm Mr Rockefeller with a large majority. The House judiciary committee approved his nomination last week.

The ceremony will be televised live and presumably President Ford will attend.

Rangoon rioters sent to jail

Rangoon, Dec 17.—A further 24 people were jailed for three years yesterday for taking part in riots in Rangoon on December 11.

A total of 62 people, mainly men in their twenties, have now been sentenced to jail terms of three to five years. The offences ranged from stoning a police car to setting cars on fire and damaging public property.

Refugee Turks jeer President Makarios

From Our Correspondent
Episkopi Base, Cyprus, Dec 17

President Makarios was nearly mobbed by hostile Turkish Cypriot refugees when he tried to pay a goodwill visit to their two camps inside this British sovereign base area in south Cyprus today.

The Archbishop's eight bodyguards, armed with Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifles, took up positions around the presidential limousine, facing about 100 Turkish Cypriot men, who were booing, jeering, whistling and yelling abuse.

President Makarios sat grim-faced in his bullet-proof car while Mr Orhan Muftizade, the base administrator, a retired British Army colonel, tried to persuade the refugees to let the President's party through.

But the refugees went on standing in the middle of a dirt-track half a mile from the Paramali refugee camp, refusing to move. After five minutes the Archbishop's car turned round and sped off towards Nicosia.

The jeering refugees then started stoning press cars and British sovereign base police patrol cars in the presidential motorcade. Several car windows were broken, but nobody was hurt.

This was the first attempt by Archbishop Makarios to come into direct contact with Turkish Cypriots since he returned to the island on December 7 after a five-month exile.

After being turned back at the Paramali camp the Archbishop abandoned his plan to visit a second camp within the base area, at Paramali forest.

The refugees had prepared an even hotter reception for the Archbishop at this camp. They blocked the approach road with boulders, overturned a car, set it on fire and waited for the Archbishop to arrive.

They also stoned Greek cars travelling along the Limassol-Paphos highway, which passes through the base area and near the two refugee camps.

The 8,000 Turkish Cypriot refugees in the two Episkopi camps are angry with both the British and the Makarios administration because they are being prevented from moving to the northern Turkish-occupied, part of the island.

Archbishop Makarios drove to Episkopi direct from an emotion-charged meeting in Nicosia with more than one thousand hysterically sobbing relatives of the 3,000 Greek Cypriots still listed as missing, five months after the Turkish invasion.

Rhodesians not ready to face black future

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, Dec 17

Rhodesian Government sources indicated today that it would be extremely difficult for Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, to persuade the white population to accept majority rule at the end of five years.

No one is prepared to admit that this is to be the basis of the proposed constitutional conference, as has been suggested by some informed sources—even less that parity might be reached in an interim Parliament. However, Government sources are confident that the electorate has sufficient faith in the Prime Minister to allow him considerable room for manoeuvre without the threat of a right-wing revolt.

Mr Desmond Frost, chairman of the ruling Rhodesian Front, dismissed the prospect of majority rule in five years as unrealistic and said he believed it to be something that Africans and the press were trying to foster. The views of Mr Frost are significant in that they reflect those of the conservative bulk of the party, the hard core of the Government's support.

Speaking of the decision to attempt negotiations, he said: "Let's be honest, this was something that the South Africans started. It wasn't something, as far as I know, that we started." He believed that South Africa's hopes were to see Rhodesia get international recognition and settle its internal difficulties, "but not at any cost".

Asked the mood of the part at grass roots level, Mr Fro said it was fluid. Some peopl found it difficult to understan what was going on, but everyor had full confidence in th Prime Minister.

Propaganda in the pre could cause people to react i the wrong way, he said. Unle the press indicated to th Africans that their deman were unrealistic, it could lea to a right wing backlash.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, t acting head of the enlarg African National Council, call a press conference today appeal to the press not to ha on the previous divisions African nationalists. Indicati the importance placed on t Africans' new found unity, asked the press to recognize t ANC as the mouthpiece unified African nationalism.

The bishop expressed cr cern at the failure of t Government to release all t African detainees as w promised in Lusaka.

The number in detention believed to be somewhere b tween 300 and 500 and t impression is that the Gove ment intends to release the gradually.

Bishop Muzorewa said Af cans would not participate in constitutional conference un all the detainees were releas

Informed white circles a emphatic that the proposed c ference should take place Rhodesia and that Mr Smi should himself chair the p ceedings.

China takes tougher line in Soviet border dispute

Peking, Dec 17

The Soviet Union should reduce its armed forces on the Chinese border to the level of at least 10 years ago, if there is to be progress in the negotiations betwen the two countries, it has been stated authoritatively in Peking.

A discussion of the frontier dispute, published in the journal, *Historical Research* also demands that Russia should cease sending spies to China, put an end to military manoeuvres and "provocations" in the border area. It also urges the Russians to admit that they had seized territory from China by force in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and says that this is "the right way" to solve the dispute.

This statement apparently lays to rest recent speculation that China is taking a "softer line" towards the Soviet Union and might be prepared to drop the demand for a Russi admission of historical guilt. is contained in the first iss of the journal republished month after being stopped d ing the Cultural Revolution.

In recent years the Russia have developed a line of histo cal argument to the effect t their territorial acquisitic from China were just a reasonable. For China demand again that they shou change this is tantamount recognizing that there is prospect of progress in t border talks in the foreseeal future.

The article recalls that t Soviet leaders have recen denied that there are any d puted areas on the border. says that if the Soviet Uni sincerely wants progress in t negotiations it could begin withdrawing its troops fr Outer Mongolia and "reduci Soviet armed forces in the Si Soviet border area to the le of the time of Khrushchev".

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18th December 1974

(also on page 25)

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OVERSEAS

Fear of Israel attack may force Lebanon to buy Soviet missiles

From Paul Martin
Beirut, Dec 17

Amid growing fears that it will soon be the target of a major Israel assault, Lebanon plunged again today into the unresolved debate of how best it can defend itself. With the recent Israel air strike around Beirut still fresh in their minds Lebanese political leaders are weighing up the possibility of establishing an air defence system.

So far Lebanon has managed to remain outside the main battle arena in successive Arab-Israel wars. However, the upsurge in Palestinian guerrilla activity in northern Israel in recent months has threatened to embroil it. Israel has reacted with increasing severity to terror attacks, pinpointing Lebanon as its prime target.

The Israel air strikes around Beirut—the first military assault on the capital since the 1968 attack on the airport—have exposed Lebanon's lack of air defence. There is now a strong lobby calling on the Government to buy ground-to-air missiles—even from the Soviet Union if necessary.

"Do we need missiles?" asked Mr Rashid Solh, the Prime Minister. "Of course we do." He promised the Government would not hesitate to purchase Sam systems from the Soviet Union if Parliament so decided, though Lebanon has a strong pro-Western bias and has been traditionally armed from this quarter.

The issue of Lebanon's defence is being discussed by the parliamentary, foreign and defence committees who will present their recommendations to Parliament. Although they will be covering well-worn ground, recent events have injected a sense of urgency.

It is becoming increasingly clear to the Lebanese that despite its peaceful record the country is doomed to be the battleground for the so-called Palestinian war.

The recent string of guerrilla actions in northern Israel has sparked off this new soul-searching. Mr Suleiman Franjieh, the President, is reported to be planning a meeting with President Assad near their common border in the next week. He has already met Mr Yasir Arafat, the Palestine guerrilla leader, to discuss defence matters of mutual interest.

Clearly, the general feeling in the Middle East that war clouds are gathering once more, has increased Lebanese anxieties. Mr Arafat, for instance, is in Syria for "urgent consultations" and is reported to have said he expects a major Israel attack against Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon. Lebanese fears of an Israel push to the Litani river line have been revived.

Although Sams are the topic of conversation at the moment, the Lebanese are mindful of the recent history of defence fevers. Many agree with Mr Pierre Gemayel, the Phalangist leader, who declared about demands for building up the armed forces: "Our strength lies in our weakness." He went on to add that Lebanon should not "bring the bear into our courtyard".

According to Mr Gemayel, and a strong lobby agreeing with his assessment, if Lebanon installed a Sam system "the enemy would use this as an excuse to strike at us". This he said could turn Lebanon into "another Palestine, if not worse". He pointed out that Lebanon had so far avoided losing territory to Israel.

The fact remains that a solution to Lebanon's defence needs is one so complicated that it has been in the past thought less dangerous, in the long run, to shelve it. Unlike other Arab fronts, the country's political make-up is too delicately woven to allow the stationing of other Arab troops on its soil to bolster its tiny army.

Likewise, material help in the military sphere from combatant states, like Syria or Egypt, endangers its present role on the Middle East stage. As Mr Gemayel pointed out, even a change in the status quo of its armed forces may be regarded by Israel as a "provocation". However, the roar of Israel jets over Beirut last week still rings in many ears.



While much of the world is facing food shortages China has its problem too: how to store a record harvest. The people of Suchien province are relying, as the photograph shows, on silos built in the traditional terrace style of the region.

Israel claims Russians man Syrian missiles

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Dec 171

Mr Shimon Peres, the Minister of Defence, asserted today that Soviet soldiers were posted in the Damascus area to man ground-to-air missile batteries.

In reply to questions in the Knesset in Jerusalem, the minister estimated that there were 3,000 Soviet soldiers in Syria.

"We don't know how many of them are in Syrian military positions, but it is known that Soviet military personnel operate some of the ground-to-air missile batteries in the Damascus area and various electronic systems all over Syria."

Breaches of the disengagement treaties by Egypt and Syria had recently been discovered. A few days ago, he said, the Egyptians removed a dozen 130mm guns from a prohibited area after the violation had been discovered and reported to the United Nations.

During recent Egyptian manoeuvres, they moved weapons across the Suez Canal into Sinai in excess of the 30 tanks and 36 artillery pieces permitted under the agreement. They were withdrawn a few hours later.

The Egyptians also dug trenches on the east bank that might be intended for control centres for missile batteries, the defence minister added.

Mr Peres alleged that the Syrians stationed weapons in the reduced forces zone of the Golan Heights. He was apparently referring to an Israel complaint to United Nations observers on December 13 that Syria had 90 tanks there instead of the 75 permitted and had guns in excess of the 36 allowed in the agreement.

Israel military sources said it was not known whether the excess weapons had been removed.

Japan does an about-turn on oil

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Dec 17

The Japanese Government, which has so far refused to endorse proposals by the Western industrialized nations to conserve fuel, announced today that it is now prepared to reduce oil consumption in the country by approximately 3 per cent during the next fiscal year.

Significantly, the belated announcement was issued after President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing agreed to align their divergent views on the question of energy problems during summit talks at Martinique. Until now, the Japanese Government has consistently refused to cooperate with other industrialized nations in plans to reduce oil consumption.

The sudden turnabout in Tokyo's approach to the energy issue is also attributable to the change in the leadership of the ruling party earlier this month. Less than three weeks ago, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, who was Prime Minister at the time, informed President Ford during their summit talks that Japan would find it difficult to reduce oil consumption under the plans put forward by Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State.

Mr Tanaka apparently told his American guests that while he believed the United States could afford to cut back on energy consumption, a small island without any resources could not cooperate for two reasons: Japan, unlike the United States, had to import 99 per cent of its oil; and Japan's high growth rate had been achieved because, in contrast to the United States, the country diverted a higher proportion of its energy resources to industry rather than personal consumption.

Mr Tanaka explained to Mr Ford that 70 per cent of Japan's oil supplies went to industry.

It is therefore significant that the decision was announced today, only eight days after Mr Takeo Miki the new Prime Minister—a man who vehemently opposed his predecessor's plans for a high growth rate—took office. Mr Toshio Komoto, the Minister for International Trade and Industry (MITI), told journalists that Japan had decided to join other oil consuming industrialized nations in the West in their plans to save oil next year.

According to the Government's tentative plans, MITI hopes to reduce consumption by 150,000 barrels a day. Japan consumed 5,400,000 barrels of oil a day last year and the planned reduction next year will amount to some 3 per cent of the nation's total consumption.

Mr Komoto said the target levels were still fluid and the plan would finally be endorsed when the Government gave the country's future economic picture some shape next week.

As a result of the oil crisis and a recession, Japan's consumption of oil is expected to drop to about 283 million kilolitres by the end of the present fiscal year. Although the Government has not announced any concrete targets for the coming financial year, MITI officials admit that besides the supplies of oil which will be allotted for normal consumption, an extra 6,160,000 kilolitres will be imported to build up the country's reserves.

A spokesman for MITI said tonight that Mr Komoto had specifically declared that the Government would reduce consumption but imports would not decline.

Mr Komoto did not give details of how the Government proposed to reduce consumption, but officials hinted tonight that office buildings and private houses might have to bear the brunt of a reduction in energy. It is also understood that television stations will have to limit viewing time and illuminated advertising will be restricted.

The Government calculated in August this year that the country would consume 300 million kilolitres of oil next year if Japan was to maintain a proposed growth rate of 5.2 per cent during the new fiscal year. According to the estimates of government economists, the proposed reduction in consumption would not present industry with any serious obstacles. The growth rate might drop marginally to between 4 per cent and 5 per cent.

Protesting Malaysian students put to test

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, Dec 17

Defiance by students of the Malaysian Government, kept up for a fortnight in spite of tear gas and arrests, will come under a different kind of pressure tomorrow when examinations begin.

The students who have been boycotting lectures talk of boycotting the examinations as well. But the University of Malaya has said that anyone without a proper reason for not sitting the examinations will be deemed to have failed.

So, jobs and careers are at stake at a time when jobs of any kind are hard to find. About 700 students are due to begin taking their examinations for a diploma in education and an MAE degree tomorrow.

The examinations will begin in a convent school away from the university. Professor Ungku Aziz, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, has explained that conditions on the campus are not ideal. "We don't want people banging drums outside while others are sitting for examinations", he said.

Two students under detention will take their examinations in police cells.

A large turn-out on the first day of the examinations could bring an end of the bout of student demonstrations, the largest and most protracted in years, against inflation, low rubber prices and corruption. The main test will come on January 13, when undergraduate examinations begin.

The Government, however, is plainly disturbed and action seems inevitable both to meet some of the students' demands and to establish tighter control. Already a publicity campaign is under way to tell the people of moves to soften the impact of inflation.

Yugoslav writer will stand trial tomorrow

Belgrade, Dec 17.—Mihajlo Mihajlov, the dissident Yugoslav writer, who was charged last week with spreading anti-Soviet and anti-Yugoslav propaganda, will stand trial on Thursday, official sources confirmed today.

Mr Mihajlov, aged 40, is a specialist in Russian literature and is known in the West for his books *Moscow Summer* and *Russian Themes*. He was arrested early in October in connexion with five articles published in American newspapers and Russian emigré journals in Europe.

Under the article of the criminal code concerning "hostile propaganda" he could face up to 15 years' imprisonment if found guilty.—Reuter.

Death sentence upheld on Mrs Park's killer

Seoul, Dec 17.—The South Korean Supreme Court today upheld the death sentence on Mun Se Kwang, who shot President Park's wife dead when attempting to assassinate the President on August 15.

Another Vietnam town taken

Saigon, Dec 17.—Communist forces have taken a second district capital in their present offensive in which Government forces suffered nearly 5,000 casualties.

The Saigon Command announced that the Mekong delta town of Hung Loug, in Chuong Thien province, fell after a three-hour shelling and infantry assault. The garrison fled. The town had been under siege since December 6, when the Communist offensive started in the delta.—AP.

55,000 Thai children die of malnutrition

Bangkok, Dec 17.—Malnutrition killed about 55,000 children, aged under five, in Thailand this year, a report said today.—Reuter.

No West Bank regret for brief display of defiance

From Eric Marsden
Ramallah, Dec 17

One month after Mr Yassir Arafat's speech at the United Nations which set off demonstrations among the Arabs of the West Bank, life has returned to normal in this Christian town north of Jerusalem.

The restrictions placed on its citizens by the military government, after school demonstrations and a one-day shutdown by shopkeepers, have been lifted. People from Ramallah and its twin Muslim town, Al Bireh, may again leave the area and cross into Jordan. They can also resume the export of olive oil and other produce.

Ten shops which were closed indefinitely at the time of the commercial boycott have been allowed to reopen, after representations by the town's Chamber of Commerce and on payment of a surety of about £800 against a repetition. Ramallah is the last of the West Bank towns to be freed from restrictions.

Life is outwardly quiet again, but the demonstrations which hailed the United Nations recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization have left their mark. The new militancy of local Arab leaders is finding expression in a stream of petitions for the return of nine men deported to Lebanon last month.

Shopkeepers in Ramallah, busy with pre-Christmas trade, are relieved at the end of an emergency during which streets were patrolled constantly by security forces, but men show no regret for the brief display of defiance. Like others in the West Bank, they are still bitter over the use of force by police and troops to break up the pro-PLO demonstrations.

In an interview before the lifting of the restrictions, the Mayor of Ramallah, Mr Karim Khalaf, told me of the tense exchanges with Israel officials which led to the town's collective punishment. On the day that all the shops closed, he said, the military governor's aide burst into his council room without knocking and banged on his table, ordering him to report to the governor within five minutes.

Mr Khalaf, who was talking with councillors, led his delegation to the military governor's office for a joint meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Al Bireh council. He claimed that the military governor ordered the Arab leaders to reopen the shops immediately. When they demurred, he said he would leave them in the room alone for 15 minutes to make a decision.

The Ramallah councillors insisted on returning to their own chamber to debate the issue and were allowed to do so, although a decision in 15 minutes was still demanded. However, according to Mr Khalaf, before the time limit expired troops were ordered into action, sealing off 10 shops as an example to the others and forcibly opening the locks of the rest and instructing the shopkeepers to occupy them.

Rebels from Zanzibar released by Tanzania

Dar es Salaam, Dec 17.—Ten detainees held on mainland Tanzania have been released, according to the Government newspaper the *Daily News* today. Five of them were said to have been held in connexion with a plot to overthrow the Zanzibar Government, which led to the killing in April, 1972, of Shaikh Abeid Karume, the state's leader.

The five were tried in their absence by the people's court of Zanzibar for treason and acquitted earlier this year. The other five, held in Tanzania on various other charges, were released after their cases had been reviewed.

The *Daily News* added that 14 others, including Mr Abdul Rahman Babu, the former Tanzanian Minister for Economic Affairs and Development Planning, and Colonel Ali Mahfoudh, the alleged leader of the plot, were still being held on the mainland. They were also tried in their absence by the Zanzibar court, found guilty and sentenced to death in May. Reuter.

Africans killed in fight at mine

Rustenburg, S Africa, Dec 17.—Four African workers have been killed and 78 others injured in serious inter-tribal fighting at the Bafokeng South platinum mine near Rustenburg, in the Transvaal, during the past three days.

Churchmen condemn S Africa takeover

By Our Foreign Staff

Leading churchmen in Britain and South Africa have condemned the decision by the South African authorities to take over the land and buildings of one of the leading theological colleges in southern Africa.

Under an expropriation order served by the Ministry of Agriculture at the end of last month, the Bantu Trust will assume control of the Federal Theological Seminary of Southern Africa in Alice, Cape Province, on Boxing Day. After that date the college—which trains both Africans and Coloureds for the ministry for the Anglican, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches—will be without a home.

In Britain, the Rev Harry Morton, general-secretary of the British Council of Churches, said that "all Christians must surely deplore this extraordinary action against a major church institution". The Council's international affairs division has requested an urgent meeting with the South African ambassador to discuss the matter.

Lord Ramsey of Canterbury, who visited the seminary in 1970, said yesterday he was "deeply grieved" by the decision to appropriate the college, which he regarded as "a really important institution for Christian progress in South Africa". In the Republic itself, the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev B. B. Burnett, has issued a strongly worded statement saying that the move "will produce in many a sense of outrage, because once again black people are being pushed around by white people who have power".

The seminary, which is attended by about 150 students, is situated at one of the oldest mission centres in South Africa. A large number of the staff are white, many of them from Britain, including the seminary's president, Father Theodore Simpson.

The official reason for the takeover is the need for expansion of the neighbouring Fort Hare University, one of the country's leading African educational establishments. However, it has been pointed out to the authorities that there is plenty of room for the university to expand in other directions without having to expropriate the seminary's lands and its excellent modern buildings.

Churchmen feel that the real reason for the Government's action is the seminary's multiracial character, particularly as it is often visited by black students from the racially-segregated Fort Hare University.

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Until 21st Dec daily. Sats. 9.30-12.

GIMPEL FILS, 30 Davies St., W.1. 488. ANCIENT & MODERN. Clo for Xmas Dec. 24-Jan. 4 incl.

GRAVES ART GALLERY, SHEFFIE
JOHN D.NTON
PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS
Daily 10-6. Sun. 2-5.

HAYWARD GALLERY (Arts Counc South Bank, S.E.1.: BRITI SPORTING PAINTINGS 1650-1 and PAUL KLEE: THE LAST YEA 15 Dec.-23 Feb., 1975. Mon.-1 10-8. Sat. 10-6. Sun 12-5. Clo 24, 25, 26 Dec. and 1 Jan. admits to both exhibitions 10p day Mon. and 6-8 Tues. to Children, students and OAPs 25p

HENRY MOORE
FISCHER FINE ART
Complete Graphic Works 1972-1 including the "Sheep" portfolio, "stonehenge" portfolio etc. M Fri 10-5.30; Sats. 10-12.30, until December. 01-839 3942. 30 King Str St. James's, S.W.1.

LASSON GALLERY
PETER FARMER
Until 21st December
9-24 Jermyn Street, S.W.1.
01-629 6481
Daily 10.30-5.30. Sats. 11-1.

LEFEVRE GALLERY
An exhibition of important 19th & 2 Century Paintings and Drawings, inc ing works by
Bonnard, Bordin, Daumier, De Delacroix, Ernst, Magritte, Matt Miro, Picasso, Severini, Tauba Van Lauregc, Van Gogh.
Weekdays 10-5. Saturdays 10-1. Bruton Street, London W1X 8ID. 01-493 1572.

LEGER GALLERY
13 Old Bond Street, W.1.
IMPORTANT EXHIBITION
ENGLISH WATERCOLOURS
including Cozens and the Haraditz Sketchbooks. Turner, Colman, etc

LUMLEY CAZALET, 24 Davies W.1. 01-499 8255. MARC CHAG Colour lithographs from Daphnis Chloe. Till 3 Jan. Mon.-Fri. 10 Thurs. 10-7

MAAS GALLERY, Christmas exhibi of English paintings, drawings, w colours and prints from £10 at Clifton St., New Bond Street. 9 Until 20th December. Daily 1 Sats. 10-1.

MAYOR GALLERY, 14 South Mo St., W.1. 493 8778. JAMES ROS QUIST. Paintings 1957-74.

MARLBOROUGH GRAPHICS LTD., 19 Old Bond St. NEW WORKS BY CALDER, ARTISTS Daily 10-5.30. Sats. 10.12.3

MARLBOROUGH, 6 Albemarle St., W EDWARD SEAGO Memorial E Exhibition until 3 January. Mon.-Fri. 10-5.30. Sat. 10-12. Adm free. Illustrated catalo £2 post free.

MOORLAND GALLERY, 23 Cork W.1. 01-734 6782. Artist Watercolours by ARC BALD THORBURN until Decem 21. Mon.-Fri. 9.30-6. Sats. 10-1

NATIONAL GALLERY
SCHOOL'S OUT!
ART ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDRE From 2-14. Tues.-Sat. at 11.00, 14. 16.00, Sun. at 14.15 & 16.00, Jan. 17. Adm. free.

"NUDE OR NAKED" IN 1974 Nicholas Treadwell Gallery, Chil St., W.1. 486 1414.

OMELL GALLERIES, 40 Albem Street, Piccadilly, W.1. GREAT U OF-YEAR OF FINE MARINE A MODERN PAINTINGS at REALIS PRICES. Unique opportunity acquire fine works of art at a modest outlay.

PAINTINGS OF ENGLISH GARDI AND LANDSCAPES by JO MORLEY on show in Royal Acad Schools' Common Room Upen 3rd Jan., daily, except Sunda Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day. Admission free. RO ACADEMY OF ARTS, Piccadilly, W

RANGER'S HOUSE (G.L.C.), Ches field Walk, Blackheath, S.E.7. inc. 5m. Admission free. THE S FOLK COLLECTION. INAUGU EXHIBITION. THE SUFFOLK C LECTION: ELIZABETHAN, JA BEAN and later portraits.

PORTRAIT SCULPTORS & MA PRINTS '74
Ann. Exhbn. Mall Art Galleries, 8 Until Dec. 19. 10-8. Sat. 10-1. Adm 20p.

RICHARD GREEN GALLERY
34 Dover Street, W.1. 01-493 7
CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS UNDER £2,000
Daily 9.30-6.00. Sats. 10.00-12

REDFERN GALLERY, DUDUFF NICHOLSON TAPIES. Painth drawings, graphics. December-Ja ary. Daily 10-5. Sats. 10-1. Cork Street, London, W.1.

ROLAND BROWSE & DELBANCO
19 Cork St., W.1. 01-734 0384
ECCLESIASTICAL & DOMESTIC SCULPTURE
Ulrich Henn
Mon.-Fri. 10-5.30. Sats. 10-1 until 23 Dec.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS. TURN 1775-1851. Organized jointly by Tate Gallery and Royal Academy Arts. 10-6 seven days a we Closed 24, 25 and 26 Decembe Adm. 80p. (Mondays 40p.) Sea tickets £2. Students and pension half price. Adm. free on Mondays December.

SABIN GALLERY, 4 Cork St., W "Early English Watercolours Christmas Presents" mainly un £60. Dec. 3-24. Daily 9.30-5. Sats. 10-12.30.

SERPENTINE GALLERY (Arts Co Gd), Kensington Gardens, W.2. A AS THOUGHT PROCESS. 14 De 12 Jan. 1975. 10-4 daily. Clo 23-29 Dec., incl. and Admission free.

TEMPLE GALLERY, ICONS, 4 Y mans Row, S.W.3. 589 6623.

THE WADDINGTON GALLERIES
54 Cork Street, W.1. 439 1896
HELEN FRANKENTHALER
Paintings. Daily 10-5.30
Sat. 10-1. Ends 21st Dec.

TRYON GALLERY, 41 Dover St., W 01-493 5161. Wild animals of Afr by WILHELM KUHNERT until D 21. Mon.-Fri. 9.30-5. Sats. 10

BODYBOX
Exhibition and workshop.
VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM S.W.7.
Wkdys 10.00-18.00 Suns 14.30-18 Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan

WINSLOW HOMER: watercolours a drawings, VICTORIA AND ALBE MUSEUM, SW7. Adm. 20p.

THEATRES

WYNDHAM'S (836 3028)
Evgs. at 8. Sats. 6.30 & 8.30
Celia Tony Allen
JOHNSON BRITTON GIFFORD
William Douglas Home's new play
THE DAME OF SARK
"INTENSELY MOVING" Robert. S. Times

YOUNG VIC (by Old Vic). 928 6363. Tdy. 2, Sat. 2 & 8. FANTASTIC FAIRGROUND (children 3 10). Thu., Fri, 8 CRETE & SGT. PEPPER (last parts) "Hilariously funny black comedy" Robert. S. Times.

YOUNG VIC STUDIO (928 6363). Daytime perfs. THE HOGARTH PUPPETS. Send s.a.e. for details.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051 From 8.15 Dining and Dancing. 9.30 Revue A TOUCH OF VENUS And at 11 p.m. MATT MONRO

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Ave. 836 8861. Sep. perfs. All seats bkble. MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS (A). ABC 1: 2.30, 5.50, 8.50. ABC 2: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15.
ABC BLOOMSBURY (837 1177 Brunswick Sq. Nr. Russell Sq. Thurs. THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS (A) (Italian film English subs). 2.45, 5.50, 8.55. CHARIOTS OF THE GODS (U). 1.35, 4.30, 7.35. (Last Day).
ACADEMY ONE (437 2981). Bo Widerberg's ELVIRA MADIGAN (A). 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.50. Last Day.
ACADEMY TWO (437 5129). Victor Erice's THE SPIRIT OF THE BEE-HIVE (AA) & MIKIS THEODORAKIS (U). Progs. 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.
ACADEMY THREE (437 8819). MY AIN FOLK (AA). and MY CHILDHOOD (A). 5.0, 7.0, 9.0. Last Day.
CARLTON, Haymarket. 930 3711 BRUCE LEE in FIST OF FURY (X). Progs. 1.00, 2.55, 5.15, 7.55, LAST DAY.
COLUMBIA. (734 5414) A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS (U). Progs. Dly. 1.00, 3.50, 6.55, 8.20. Last Day.
CURZON, Curzon St., W.1. 499 3737 Ingmar Bergman's SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE (AA). at 1.55, 4.55, 7.55. Phone bookings accepted. "The best and most intelligent film around in London at present." David Robinson, Times
DOMINION, Tott. Ct. Rd. (580 9562). THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT (U). Sep. Progs. 2.10, 5.20, 8.25. All seats bookable.
JUPITER, Leicester Square. EARTHQUAKE (A). You'll FEEL it as well as see it in SENSURROUND. Progs. Daily 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Sep. All seats bookable. No phone bookings.
GATE CINEMA, Notting Hill Gate 727 5750. GREAT COMEDIES SEASON. W. C. FIELDS PROGRAMME. POOL SHARKS, FATAL GLASS OF BEER, PHARMACIST, BARBER SHOP (U). 1.30, 4.10, 6.45, 9.25 p.m., 12.06 a.m. and HARRY LANGDON in TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP (U). 2.50, 5.25, 8.05, 10.45 p.m. Late Night Gate Minibus.
LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 6252). Walt Disney Productions. THE ISLAND AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD (U). Plus Winnie The Pooh and Tigger Too (U). Cont. Dly. 1.00, 3.20, 5.50, 8.20. Advance bookings on 930 0416.
MINERVA, 45 Knightsbridge 235 4225/6 Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland KLUTE (X) Dly. 6.30, 9.00. Mat. Sat./Sun. 3.0. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11.15. All seats bookable by phone. SOLD OUT 9.0 perf. Sun 15th Dec. *Showing until Wed. 18th Dec.
ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738/2771) Dirk Bogarde, Charlotte Rampling. THE NIGHT PORTER (X). Sep. Progs. Wk. 1.45, 5.00, 8.20. Feature Wk 2.05, 5.30, 8.40. All Seats Bookable.

TIME
Europe's Christmas mood: mounting unemployment
America: Economic Slide continues until summer
EEC: The Paris Summit
Rhodesia is Reversal
Who Killed Jesus?
ON SALE NOW

NIGHTLY at 8
MATINEE TOMORROW at 3 p.m.
J. M. Barrie's
What Every Woman Knows
ALBERY THEATRE

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هكذا من الأصل

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

ALSO ON PAGE 8

OPERA AND BALLET

OVENT GARDEN 240 1911
THE ROYAL BALLET
onight 7.30 & Sat. 2 Swan Lake. omor. 7.30 Enigma Variations, Mono- nes, Daphnis & Chloe. Boxing Day & 7.30 The Sleeping Beauty.
THE ROYAL OPERA
rt. & Mon next 7.00 Le nozze di igaro. Sat. 7.30 Pelléas et Mélisande. ats avail. Sat. & Mon. next and oxing Day.

OLISEUM 01-836 3161
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
morrow & Dec. 28, 7.30: *Barber of* ville. Dec. 31, 5.30: *The Master-* ngers. Tonight, Fri. & Sat: no Opera rts. (See under Theatres for TER PAN).

NDON OPERA CENTRE, 490 Com- mercial Road, E.1. 790 1468. Decem- er 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st at 7.30 p.m. **THE FAIRY QUEEN**— Purcell.

YAL FESTIVAL HALL, Dec. 26 to Jan. 11. Daily 3 & 7.30 Jan. 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11.30 only. **LONDON FESTI- VAL BALLET in THE NUTCRACKER.**

DLER'S WELLS THEATRE, Rose- bery Ave. 837 1672. Evs. 7.30. Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2.30. **D'OYLY CARTE** in **GILBERT & SULLIVAN.** Tonight Rudigore, Tomor., Fri & Sat: Yeomen of the Guard.

CONCERTS

SIC STUDIO with grand piano for ractice or teaching. Victoria.— 834 4568.
YAL FESTIVAL HALL. Tonight at 8. **ONDON MOZART PLAYERS.** Harry ietch, Barry Tuckwell, Claude Frank. Mozart programme.

THEATRES

ELPHI. 836 7611. For 4 weeks only. Twice daily: 3.0 & 7.30. **LIVE ON STAGE in a brand new adventure DR WHO & THE DALEKS in SEVEN KEYS TO DOOMSDAY**

SERY. 836 3878. Mon. to Fri. 8, 8.15 & 8.30, Mat. Thurs. at 3. **ROTHY TUTIN PETER EGAN DOROTHY REYNOLDS, CLIVE NORTON in J. M. Barrie's Comedy WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS** A triumph. A delightful evening." Daily Mail. " A joy." E. News

DWYCH 836 6404
RSC in Shakespeare's CYMBELINE
ev. mt. 7.30. Few seats avail. for night tomor. 7.0, then Fri. 7.30, 2.30 & 7.30, Dec. 26 m & e. 27: kespeare's **RICHARD II** (Richard/ Pasco—Dec. 28 mat. 30, Pasco/ rdison—Dec. 28 eve) Marlowe's **FAUSTUS** (Dec 31, Jan. 1 m & e **AST PERFS**). Recorded booking 856 5332.

MBASSADORS. 836 1171. Ev. 8. Sat. 5.30. Thu. (all seats £1.50) 2.45 **UPER JACK IS A ROARING HIT —RIP RIP HOORAY FOR JACK THE RIPPER**
fast fun musical) is the best to hit n in many a season. Half a dozen v stopping songs. Certain hit." Sun. " THIS MUSICAL GAVE ME **REAT PLEASURE ! !** "—D. Exp. *Lighthearted colourful mixture of* ictile melodrama and pub slang- s." E.N. " Lively melodic, very ing verve & wit.. and above all ood musical score." Daily Mirror.

MBASSADORS. THE MOUSETRAP ansferred next door to St. Martin's.

LLD. 437 2662. Evgs. 8.0, Mat. 3.0. Sat. 6.0, 8.30. No perfs. 23, 24, 25. Boxing Day 5.0, 8.0 **DEREK NIMMO** SUPERCLOWN."—D. Express **KATY MANNING** Natural Comic."—E. Standard **WHY NOT STAY FOR BREAKFAST ?**
rek Nimmo is gentle, tender, very, funny and extremely touching. play and performance are to be ly recommended."—S. Times. OVER 400 PERFORMANCES

BRIDGE. 856 6056. Evs. 8, 5.45, 8.30. Sxg.-D. & Weds.3 l. mats. all seats £1: OAP's 50p). **RIAN RIX JIMMY LOGAN** SUPERB COMEDIANS."—D. Tel. A BIT BETWEEN THE TEETH ier Bland & 2 gorgeous girls."—SM T IS VERY FUNNY."—S. Times.

NO, off Shaftesbury Ave., W.1. **NGGY STEPTOE & SON** **LFRID HARRY H.** **MBELL CORBETT** **CINDERELLA**
ens tonight 7.0, Thu. Fri. 7.30 ubs. 2.30 & 7.30 (437 6877)

SEUM (836 3161). 24 Perfs only. r. Fri. & Sat. at 2 & 7.30. ur. at 2 p.m. (also Mats. 2 pm: 26, 28, 30, Jan. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7. 7.30: Dec. 25, 24, 25, 30, 1, 3, 6. Mngs. 11 a.m. Jan 4 & 8) **ISAN MICHAEL PSHIRE DENISON** **PETER PAN**
Seats available evening perfs. English National Opera see Opera and Ballet Section.

ERY. 930 2578. Evenings 8.0 Sat. 5.30. Mat. Thurs. 3.0 **EL PATRICK DULCIE GRAY ER SALLIS PETER VAUGHAN** BRIAN WILDE in **THE PAY-OFF**
THRILLER ! " IT'S A DOUBLE- CROSSING DELIGHT." Now AN EVENING OF UNDILUTED PLEASURE." Sunday Times.

TERION. 930 3216. Evgs. 8, Sats. 5.45, 8.30. Sx-D. & Weds. 3. THE NEW COMEDY HIT **ILLIANT Bernard CRIBBINS' S. Tel offrey Terence Jane INER ALEXANDER DOWNS** Bill FERTWEE **XPERT." Peggy MOUNT—(Stage) THERE GOES THE BRIDE** " VERY FUNNY."—E. News

IRY LANE. 836 8108. Evgs. 7.30 Wed. Sat. and Boxing Day 3.30 **MICHAEL CRAWFORD in BILLY**
A NEW MUSICAL **RAWFORD'S ASTONISHING TAL- MUST BE ONE OF THE SIGHTS LONDON NO RESIDENT OR TOR SHOULD MISS."—S. Exp.

HESS. 836 8243
evenings 8.0. Fri. Sat. 6.15, 9.0. ALIVE ON STAGE **OH ! CALCUTTA !**
OVER 1,500 PERFORMANCES **ATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL S. Tel. NUDITY IS STUNNING D. Tel.

E OF YORK'S. 836 5122. Eves. . Sat. 8.30. Fr. 5, 6.45 Lst. wk. **RALDINE GERALD JAMES cGOWAN HARPER VILLIERS** **THE LITTLE HUT**

E OF YORK'S. 836 0752. Mats. dy. Red. pr. prev. Dec. 23. 3 p.m. pens 24th. 12 & 3 p.m. 26th, a.m., 2 p.m. Sub. dly. 12 & p.m. (Sats. 11 a.m. 2 p.m.). dventures of **PADDINGTON BEAR.**

TUNE. 836 2238. Evenings at 8.0. 5.30 & 8.30. Thurs. 2.45 red. pr. **SLEUTH**
EST THRILLER EVER."—NY Times Now in its 5th Great Year

RICK. 836 4601. Evs. 8. Sats. 5.30. Red. pr. Mats. Wed. 3. Extra Mat. Dec. 26 at 5.30. turancing **MOIRA LISTER."** S. Times and ELSPETH MARCH **BIRDS OF PARADISE** NVINCINGLY FUNNY." City Press

RE THEATRE 437 1592
TOM COURTENAY in **THE NORMAN CONQUESTS**
by ALAN AYCKBOURN **D & R'ND THE GARDEN** Today Fri. Mon. 8.15: **TABLE INERS** Tnt. & Tu. 8.15, Sat. 5.30: **NG TOGETHER** Tomor. 6.15, Sat.

ENWICH. 858 7755. Evgs. 8.0 at. Sat. 2.30 **THE ENTERTAINER** John Osborne. Dec. 26-Jan. 11. **ARDING'S LUCK**: Dec. 26-Jan. 4. 30 p.m., **ASPECTS OF MAX WALL.**

MPSTEAD TH. CLUB. 722 9301. 8, Sat. 5 & 8 **CLEVER SOLDIERS** Stephen Pollakoff. " Marks the y into British drama of a writer outstanding potentialities." S.T.

MARKET. 930 9832. Evenings 8.0 ed. & Sat. 5.0 & 8.0 (Closed Dec. 5-26). Extra Mat. Dec. 26 at 5.0. **AFFORD JOHNS, LEE MONTAGUE WHO SAW HIM DIE ?**
UPER ' Enthralling THRILLER "— Daily Mirror. LAST WEEKS.

MARKET THEATRE. 930 9832 **TOAD OF TOAD HALL**
ats. Dec. 23-Jan. 18. Book Now.

MAJESTY'S. 930 6606
s. 7.30. Mat. Wed. & Sat. & Dec. 26 at 3.0. No perf. Dec. 24, 25. **DEN MILLS** absolutely showstopping **I DENCH** ravishing." S. Times. m J. B. Priestley's **THE GOOD COMPANIONS**
orgeously nostalgic musical " Now

G'S HEAD THEATRE CLUB. 226 916. Robert Patrick's **KENNEDY'S HILDREN.** 8.00. Dinner Optl. 7.00.

G'S ROAD THEATRE. 352 7488 . to Thurs. 9.0. Fri. Sat. 7.30, 9.30 **HE ROCKY HORROR SHOW** EST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR " aily Standard DRAMA AWARDS.

LE ANGEL MARIONETTE HEATRE, 14 Dagmar Passage, N.1. 1-226 1787. Sat., Dec. 21, 11 a.m. nd 3 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 22 3 p.m. **HE MICYCLES.**

NIC. 01-437 3696. Evenings 8.0 . Sat. & Dec. 26 at 5.0 & 8.30 (No perfs. Dec. 24, 25) **HN, PAUL, GEORGE, RINGO & BERT—The Hit Musical** NICELY ENJOYABLE." S. Times. RILLIANT." Exp. " MAGICAL. " WONDERFUL SONGS." S. Tel.

YFAIR. 629 3036
Evgs. 8.15. Sat. 8.15. 10.0 An Evening with **HINGE & BRACKET**
A Musical Revue.

YFAIR. 493 0931. Until Jan 4. **SOOTY'S XMAS SHOW** Mon. to Fri. at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sat. 10.30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m

RMAID. 248 7656. Rest. 248 2835. Evenings only at 8.30 **COLE**
best musical entertainment in town. **TREASURE ISLAND**
A Musical Adventure at 2.0 & 4.45 with Bernard Miles, Spike Milligan.

W LONDON. 405 0073. Drury Lane. 2. Red. price prevs from Thurs. pens Dec. 30 at 7.0, subs. 8.0. Fri. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30 **SHEILA GEORGE HANCOCK COLE** **Déjà Revue**
A Review of Revues

THEATRES

OLD VIC. THE NATIONAL THEATRE 928 7616. Tonight at 7.30: Tomor. 2.15 & 7.30 A. E. Ellis' **GRAND MANOEUVRES** Fri., Mon. & Tues. at 7.30. Sat. 2.15 & 7.30: **THE FREEWAY.** SEATS ALWAYS AVAILABLE DAY OF PERFORMANCE FROM 10 a.m. Now Booking until 15 Feb.

OPEN SPACE 580 4970. Temp. m'ship. **THE SNOB**, by Carl Sternheim, directed by Charles Marowitz. Opens tonight, 7.0. Charity perf. Fri. 8.30, subs. Tues. to Sun. 8.0. (No perfs. Dec. 25-26.)

PALACE. 437 6834. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0 Fri.-Sat. 6.0 & 8.40 **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** 2 perfs. on Dec. 26, 27, 28, Jan. 1 at 5.0 & 8.40. Closed Dec. 25-25.

PALLADIUM. 437 7373. Evenings 7.30. Mat. Dec. 31 and Daily from Dec. 26 at 2.45 **TOMMY STEELE** in a Lavish New Musical **HANS ANDERSEN**

PHOENIX. 836 8611. Mon.-Th. 8.0. Fri. 8.30, Sat. & Box. Day 5.30, 8.30. **ELAINE STRITCH** in NEIL SIMON'S **THE GINGERBREAD LADY** " Brilliant performance."—Gdn. " The evening is a total joy."—Mail

PHOENIX THEATRE. 836 8611. Until Jan. 11. Daily 2 p.m. A. A. Milne's **WINNIE THE POOH.** Add. perfs. 11 a.m. Dec. 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, Jan. 4, 6, 11.

PLACE, Dukes Rd., Euston. 387 0031. Last perfs. RSC's special season: Today 2.30 & 8.0. Snoo Wilson's **THE BEAST.** All seats £1 (90p members). RSC also at Aldwych.

PICCADILLY. 437 4506. Now previewing. Evenings 8.00. Sat. 5.30. First Night Sat. 21 Dec. 8.30 subs. Mon.- Fri. 8. Sats. 5.30 and 8.30. Mats. Wed. at 2.45. **DINAH SHERIDAN, JACK WATLING RAYMOND FRANCIS** in a new thriller by **FRANCIS DURBRIDGE THE GENTLE HOOK**

PRINCE OF WALES. 930 8681. Evgs. 8.0, Fri., Sat. & Dec. 26 at 5.30 & 8.45 (no perfs. Dec. 25-25). **THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW** " splendiferous revue."—F. Times

QUEENS. 734 1166. Evgs. 7.30 sharp Mat. Th. & Dec. 26, 2.30. Sats. 4.45 & 8.15 (No perfs Dec. 24, 25). JOAN PLOWRIGHT FINLAY **SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY** Directed by FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI

RAYMOND REVUEBAR THEATRE 734 1593. 7.30 and 10 p.m. PAUL RAYMOND presents **THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA**

REGENT. 580 1744. Mon., Tu., Thu., 8.30. Wed., Fri. 5.0 & 9.15 **LET MY PEOPLE COME** A Sexual Musical " You name it they've got it. Never a dull moment."—E. News.

ROUND HOUSE. 267 2564 Previews from Tonight at 8 **AUTOSACRAMENTALES** Directed by Victor Garcia

ROYAL COURT 730 1745 Previews from 31 Dec. at 7.30. **OBJECTIONS TO SEX AND VIOLENCE** by Caryl Churchill

ROYALTY. 405 8004. Book Now The World's Greatest Magician **SORCAR Junior** A great show for all the family. Opens Dec. 23 at 7.0. Subs. 8.0 Mat. Thurs. & Sat. 2.30.

ST. MARTIN'S 836 1443. Eves. 8 Mats. Tues. 2.45 and Sats. 5 & 8 Extra Mat. Dec. 26 at 5 p.m. **AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 23RD YEAR WORLD'S LONGEST-EVER RUN**

SAVOY 836 8888. Eves. 8. Sat. 5, 8. Weds. 2.30 (Mat. Dec. 26 at 5 p.m.) **ROBERT MORLEY** " REMARKABLY FUNNY."—E. Stan. Ambrosine Williams Joyce PHILLPOTTS FRANKLYN CAREY **A GHOST ON TIPTOE** OVER 250 PERFS.

SHAFTESBURY. 01-836 6596 Prev. tnt. 8.0, opens tmr. 7.0. Subs. 8.0. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30 **WEST SIDE STORY** " THE GREATEST STAGE MUSICAL OF ALL TIME" ALIVE ON STAGE Mon. to Fri. 1.30 & 4.30. Sat. 11.30 a.m. & 2.30 (No Perfs. Dec. 25.) **THE WOMBLES XMAS SHOW** Tel. 01-856 4356

SHAW THEATRE. 01-388 1394 Daily 11 a.m. & 2.30 p.m. KEN CAMPBELL'S **OLD KING COLE**

STRAND. 836 2660. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. Th. 3.0. Sats. & Dec. 26, 27 at 5.30 & 8.30. (No perfs. Dec. 25, 24, 25). Jean Kent. Liza Goddard Richard Caldicot & Derek Royle in **NO SEX PLEASE— WE'RE BRITISH** Directed by Allan Davis " Hysterically funny."—S. Times.

STRATFORD - UPON - AVON. Royal Shakespeare Company (07891) 2271. Now in repertoire: **MACBETH, TWELFTH NIGHT, MEASURE FOR MEASURE.** Recorded booking inf. (07891) 69191.

THEATRE AT NEW END. 435 4116. **Shaw's Comedies " Dark Lady of the Sonnets " " Passion, Poison & Petrifaction " " Music Cure "**— 7.45 p.m.—festive season fun.

THEATRE UPSTAIRS 730 2554 **REMEMBER THE TRUTH DENTIST** by Heathcote Williams Opens Tonight 7.30. Subs Mon.- Thurs. 8.15. Fri. & Sat. 8.15 & 10.

TH. WORKSHOP, STRATFORD, E.15. 534 0310. Evenings 8 p.m. No Mats. **DRACULA** Daily from tomorrow at 2.30 p.m. **LAND OF THE DINOSAURS**

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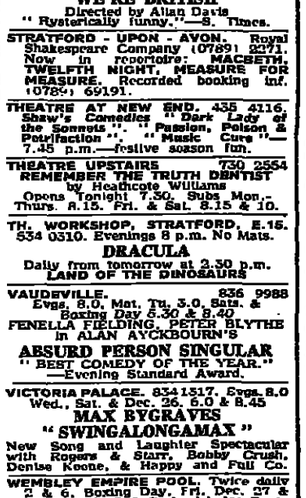
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THE ARTS



Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau in The Front Page, and right, Billy Wilder



The Wilder shores of journalism

Sheridan Morley

In his native Vienna Billy Wilder was once a reporter; in Hollywood 40 years later he was the man who first brought Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau together on screen, thereby creating what is arguably the best comic partnership since Laurel and Hardy. It is therefore hard to imagine a better director for *The Front Page*, Hecht and MacArthur's classic, acidly funny story of 1920s Chicago newspapermen which, with Lemmon and Matthau starring, opens in London on Boxing Day.

It also helps that Wilder is a quintessentially funny man: reminded by his wife over breakfast one morning that it was their first wedding anniversary he is said to have replied "Please, dear, not while I'm eating." Asked by the same wife to bring her back a bidet from Paris where he was researching *Irma La Douce*, he wired: "Regret bidet unavailable: suggest handstand in shower".

But despite his early conditioning Mr Wilder understands the somewhat jaundiced view of journalism taken by *The Front Page*:

"Journalists? Who needs them? All they ever ask me is what Marilyn Monroe was like and did she wear falsies: who needs that? *The Front Page* is about a group of slobs who treat an execution as just another few hundred words. I remember what it was like being a journalist—believe me, even making films is a better life. I only became a journalist so as to avoid being a lawyer, which is what my father wanted. He ran hotels and exported leather handbags and thought that having a son who was a lawyer would bring honour and permanence to the family name . . . like Nixon and Haldeman did."

After a year or two on the Vienna beat (during which time he was sent one morning *to collect views on* "Mussolini and the new Fascism" from both Richard Strauss and Sigmund Freud) Wilder moved on to Berlin, where he got a job with Erich Maria Remarque on an afternoon tabloid:

"It was the late 1920s: Berlin was full of Brecht and Weill and Lenya and Emil Jannings and Lubitsch and Conrad Viedt. Things were bubbling, especially in films, and I began in my spare time to write scripts for the UFA company. Robert Siodmak was there shooting a picture called *People on Sunday:* the second assistant cameraman was Freddy Zinnemann and I guess we all thought we'd found the right business to be in."

Ever since that time Wilder has been a writer as well as a maker of films: his scripts, most written in collaboration with the late Charles Brackett or I. A. L. Diamond (*Double Indemnity, Lost Weekend, Sunset Boulevard, The Seven-Year Itch, Some Like It Hot, The Apartment*) have been among the most literate and successful that Hollywood has ever produced. But does it help a director, I wondered, to be able to write as well?

"No", replied Wilder, "though I find it does help if a director can read a little. I started directing out of self-defence: no writer wants to *see his work butchered forever*, and yet a mere writer is not allowed to hang around the set safeguarding it . . . producers figure he's liable to make trouble."

What made Wilder move from Berlin to Hollywood?

"Ambition and Hitler in roughly equal measure: it was the mid-thirties, clearly I'd have had to move soon anyway as Austrian Jews weren't very popular in Europe at the time, and Hollywood seemed like a good place to be if I wanted to go on writing pictures. When I arrived there, I didn't speak a word of English; well, I had a word or two but they weren't the kind of words the Hays Office liked. So I went to live in a cupboard, which some landlady called a room in downtown Los Angeles: I shared it with Peter Lorre for a while and together we lived on cans of soup, learning the English language in so far as you can learn the English language in Los Angeles. But it's easier to survive in California with no money—you don't have to worry about clothes or heating."

Wilder and his first script partner, Charles Brackett, wrote *Ninotchka* for Garbo in 1939; three years later, again with Brackett as co-writer, Wilder made his debut as a director with *The Major and the Minor*. The result was a Paramount contract which lasted unbroken through to *Sabrina Fair* in 1954 by which time Wilder was writing with his present partner, I. A. L. Diamond. All in all he has made 30 films, been nominated for 21 Oscars, won six and taken in around forty million dollars at the box-office. Television is even beginning to stage Wilder seasons in the United States.

"Old films haunt you forever. In this business we never bury our dead. We bring out the corpses and show them on television to make a little more money."

But in among the successes there have been a goodly few disasters—movies like *Kiss Me Stupid, Irma La Douce* and *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* where the tightrope of taste and timing on which Wilder constructs his movies has somehow given way.

"Sure there have been disasters—but you can't play it straight for ever. I throw curves now and again just to keep people awake. Take *The Front Page*: it's a highly successful stage play from the Thirties, it's already been filmed twice [once in 1931 by Howard Hughes with Pat O'Brien and Adolphe Menjou, and then again as *His Girl Friday* where the sexes were switched and Rosalind Russell played the Jack Lemmon part]. Also as a script it's been grave-robbed: all the best jokes and curtain-lines have been pilfered for other movies. So who needs it again? We do; but Mr Diamond and I had to shoehorn in an extra thousand or so jokes, so now it still looks like 1929 but it's '29 seen through the eyes of '74. We didn't repaint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, we just propped it up."

What about Lemmon and Matthau?

"Well, I'd brought them together first for *The Fortune Cookie* [known here, God knows why, as *Meet Whiplash Willie*] in 1967 and so this time it took all of seven seconds to sign them. They'd cemented their partnership in *The Odd Couple* (not mine) and Americans, you know, love pictures about two buddies who fight a lot—look at Spencer Tracy and Clark Gable, or Abbott and Costello, or now Newman and Redford: they go for that "comrades in arms" thing, though in Europe it's more often interpreted as suppressed homosexuality."

The Front Page has simultaneous premieres across America this month; then, on January 2, Wilder and Diamond go back to their typewriters "*to whip up the next one*". What will it be?

"The story of Hollywood over six decades: kind of like *The Forsyte Saga*—beginnings, glories, last days, that sort of thing. But at least it'll be an original screenplay so nobody can say we loused it up."

Mr Wilder is now 68: would there, I wondered finally, ever come a time *when he stopped* making films?

"And do what? If you've been a juggler all your life you're not suddenly going to be any good as a dentist. Besides, being in a film factory is better than being in a button factory—at least you can change the shape of the films from time to time."

Fine team in the making

Swan Lake
Covent Garden

John Percival

This *Swan Lake* is the best of the Royal Ballet's big nineteenth-century productions: the choreography probably closer than any rival to the classic Petipa and Ivanov, and Leslie Hurry's decors avoiding modish affectations, although the lighting is not all that it might be. One or two minor improvements could easily be made (putting the swans into longer dresses again is the most obvious), but basically it is a good showcase for the company and its stars.

Surprising as it must seem, Monday night was the first time Antoinette Sibley and Rudolf Nureyev had danced it together. Their first duet was smoothly done, but lacked emotion because she snatched only one quick glance at him and most of the time resolutely stared *out at the audience*. His eyes, searching her face for response, found none. That is no way to dance a love duet.

Perhaps someone introduced them in the interval, because after that Sibley did seem more conscious of her partner. They could be a fine team, his strong physique setting off her fragility, if she would let herself go and act with more conviction.

Sibley's solos were attractively done, with an effective concentration on speed in Odile's variation; but if a ballerina is going to omit the famous 32 *fouettés* the substitute *manège* needs to be just a little more brilliantly carried off to make up.

Consequently, the coda to the "Black Swan" duet depended more than usual on Nureyev, and luckily he was in more than usually good form, with a notably fast, zippy set of pirouettes. Earlier, his arabesque landings from air-turns were admirably held.

Laura Connor made a crisp showing in the *pas de trois* and Michael Coleman soared strongly in his solo, but Marguerite Porter's bright, beautiful smile could not entirely disguise bent arms, shaky turns and poky feet. Lesley Collier and Wayne Sleep whizzed cheerfully through the lively Neapolitan dance, but two young aspirants in the girls' solos of Ashton's *pas de quatre* looked desperately out of their depth.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.



Two Girls in a Rowboat, by Winslow Homer

American realist

William Gaunt

Winslow Homer has a place of high esteem in America as one who devoted a faithful realism to representing various aspects of American life in the second half of the nineteenth century, and the selection of his drawings and a number of oil sketches from the Cooper-Hewitt Collection in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, now on view in London at the Victoria and Albert Museum, well conveys the wide range of his art and its individual character.

Trained in lithography, Homer took readily to illustration. The Civil War was one of his early subjects, and the numerous chalk studies of soldiers exhibited show his capacity for instant and vivid impression, sometimes suggesting a pictorial parallel with Stephen Crane's *Red Badge of Courage*.

The rustic idyll was another phase in which he excelled, and the charm of American country girls in their simple gingham dresses and perky straw hats is realized with a sensitive quality of line. His boy on a swing, 1879, is very "Huckleberry Finn". A turning point in his art was his visit to Tynemouth, England, 1881-82. As well as developing the use of watercolour he was impressed by the drama of the sea. His *Fishermen in Oilskins, Tynemouth*, watching a storm has all the *tension of the moment*, and many other drawings testify to the extent to which he became a painter of the sea and the heroic encounters of which it was the scene. A watercolour study for *The Gulf Stream* has reference to the picture of 1899 made widely known by reproduction (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York), though the finished work has a wider implication *in the shark-infested* waters and approaching typhoon that threaten the lone Negro sailor in his dismasted barque.

A complement to the drawings in the exhibition are the small oils in a tentatively Impressionist style and the artist's more pastoral vein.

Dr Who and the Daleks
Adelphi

Irving Wardle

From Shakespeare to Sam Shepherd, anything goes on the modern stage, but when it comes to Dr Who the theatre has to reckon with an expert public. The rules are inflexible and known to all; and the job of supplying an acceptable live equivalent for this electronic plaything is quite enough for any production team.

There is a moment in *Seven Keys to Doomsday* when Terrance Dicks allows authorship to go to his head, and permits the Doctor to open a Dalek like a hinged biscuit tin and scrape out its occupant while the rest of the cast avert their eyes in horror. For suggesting that Daleks contain anything more than the standard printed circuit, Mr Dicks deserves a rehabilitation sentence down in the reactor room. But otherwise he knows his place and offers a blamelessly correct Tardis adventure, that makes up in self-containment for what it lacks in time-slip complexities.

A bowed figure staggers out of the famous blue box; two *plants in the audience* (Wendy Padbury and James Mathews) rush to his assistance, while the past faces of the Doctor flash up on the back wall; finally he raises his head revealing his latest metamorphosis into Trevor Martin—a rather sardonic mask for so benevolent a character, but you get to accept it by the time he has ferried the party over to the planet Karn and stood his ground against its man-eating crabs and lobster-clawed, crocodile-muzzled guards.

Full electronic illusion is beyond the reach of any stage production; so Mick Hughes and John Napier, his brilliant designer, have settled for the only feasible alternative and magnified the scale of effects.

Besides the stage there is a bank of nine screens where inter-stellar skies mingle with fantastic vegetation, a bestiary of grotesque heads and enormous eyes. The screens are built around the equivalent of a Greek tragic portal: a black hole through which dreadful things happen and from which they stealthily emerge under cover of shadows and smoke.

When the ultimate horror is announced, a murmur of affection runs through the house, and on slide the Daleks to general applause. Nobody actually said "Aah!", but they might just as well have been koala bears.

A happy mixture

The Sun is God
Thames

Michael Ratcliffe

"This way, Mr Ruskin. . . ." *Notorious Woman*, now happily out of her misery (and ours) has made us so nervous of the humourless head-hunting that passes fo instructive entertainment in television's neo-Hollywood serials that I feared for a moment that Michael Darlow's drama-documentary of Turner's life and art was about to follow the same path. Not a bit: Mr Darlow is a versatile and intelligent director, with the clear-headed discretion to bring off the "Genocide" episode in *The World at War* and the common sense to make something crisp and funny from *The World of Jimmy Young*. Common sense, clearheadedness, a good eye and, above all, a sense of discipline and pace, were all distinguishing elements of *The Sun is God*, the happiest mixture of drama and documentary that I have seen for some time.

The protagonist must share the credit. Mr Darlow and his producer, Jolyon Wimhurst, picked Leo McKern to impersonate Turner. Mr. McKern is an actor to tear a passion to tatters, but while it was to be expected that he would roar for the scarlet lake and burnt umber in fine style, it was more surprising that he found such a contained power in the painter's inner withdrawal, such tenderness in Turner's love for his father, or in the scenes with Sarah Danby, Mrs Booth and the Egremont children at Petworth House. Indeed, Mr McKern has never been seen to better advantage.

Mr Darlow devised a marvellous *buffo* episode, alive with raised arms and running servants, tumbling children and small dogs, flying silver, linen and breakfast dishes, as an ingenious, if optimistic, explanation for that aftermath of catastrophe known simply as *Interior at Petworth* (Royal Academy catalogue, number 339). Debussy's music, used throughout, will only do for the very abstract. "unfinished" Turner; its f'mp'd flutes and harps were much too cool for *Rain, Steam and Speed* or for such a savage work as *Slavers Throwing Overboard the Dead and the Dying* (R.A. 518), but this was a minor miscalculation when set beside the pictorial and literary qualities of the programme as a whole.

Mike Fash's dazzingly soft photography complemented the early English landscapes and the later Venetian ones so well that there was never a jolt as we moved to and fro between Turner's paintings and the artificial modern light of studio and location. The words of John Ruskin (played with great affection by Nicholas Jones), as he spoke of blood and fire, of beauty disintegrating into terror, of the worm at the root, took us firmly into the darkness that lay to either side of what Turner himself, no mean hand with a phrase either, called "the morning's march that flashes to the sun".

Stratford's Winter Festival

The annual season of ballet, drama and music at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre is to be consolidated into an annual Winter Festival of the performing arts, and the first will take place from January 29 to March 8 next year. The festival will follow on the Royal Shakespeare Company productions of *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth*, whose run has been extended to January 25.

The Winter Festival opens with a recital by Joan Sutherland, accompanied by Richard Bonynge. There will be a two-week season by the Royal Ballet (February 3-15) and an opportunity for Midlands audiences to see John Barton's Aldwych production of Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* with Ian McKellen as Faustus and Emrys James as Mephostophilis (February 18-22). Morecambe and Wise will make their first ever appearance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre on March 3 and 4.

Other events will be: January 30, piano recital by Peter Katin; January 31, Gilbert and Sullivan for All; February 1, Syd Lawrence Orchestra; February 24 to March 1, Stratford-on-Avon Amateur Operatic Society in *Bitter Sweet*; March 5, Jacques Loussier Trio; March 6-7, Johann Strauss 150th-year anniversary concerts with June Bronhill, Marcus Dodds and Vilem Tausky; and March 8, Handel Opera Society in *Jephtha*.

Paul Scofield in a Coward comedy

Paul Scofield, making his debut in a Noël Coward play, will perform in *Present Laughter*, on Radio 4 on Monday at 8 pm. The programme will be repeated on Sunday, December 29, on Radio 3 and 4 at 2.30 pm.

The author said he wrote the light comedy "with the sensible object of providing me with a bravura part". This is the role to be undertaken by Mr Scofield, that of the egotistical actor Garry Essendine. Mr Scofield's wife, Joy Parker, will play his stage wife, Liz, and Fenella Fielding, Patricia Routledge and Roland Maule will be heard in other roles.

SPORT

Cricket

Bleak future ahead for England

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Perth, Dec 17

There was no defiance here today from those who really mattered. Titmus made 61 and Old 43, but once again England's specialist batsmen failed them dismally. With 50 minutes left this evening therefore, and all tomorrow to spare, Australia won the second Test match by nine wickets.

To make anything of a fight of it Greig and Denness had to get a start this morning. It was an ideal day for batting, with a breeze to ripple the flags and another 31 overs to be bowled before Lillee and Thomson could lay their hands on a new ball. The only clouds in the sky were from the bushfires burning in the hinterland. There was a lot more in favour of the batsman than the bowler. But within 25 minutes of the start the match was as good as over.

In his first three overs Thomson removed Greig, Denness and Fletcher. "Except for Colin they have forgotten where their off stump is", said Bill Lawry, Australia's captain until Ian Chappell took over, which is another way of saying that these three were all out playing balls which in the circumstances they could, and should, have left alone.

It is as much of a mental problem as a technical one. Most of England's batting in this match was rotten. This is what happens, though, to a side that gets softened up by bowling which is much faster than they are accustomed to. Twice I have seen it happen to Australia in just the same way. The first was here in 1954-55, when a side containing such batsmen as Morris, Harvey, Miller, Burke, Hole, Davidson and Benaud, was unnerved by Tyson and Statham. The other occasion was in South Africa in 1969-70 when Australia, with Lawry, Ian Chappell, Sheahan, Redpath and Stackpole, were so shaken up by Procter and Peter Pollock that no one would have backed them, by the end of the series, to take a Test match into the fourth day.

This is what worries me now. Both in 1954-55 and 1969-70 there was no recovery. England went two down in the rubber today. The last time they lost the first two Test matches out here was in 1958-59, with a much better side than Denness has. Australia went on to win by four matches to none. In recent Test history the only occasion when England have come back from losing the first two Test matches on a major tour was in West Indies in 1953-54, when they won two of the last three and drew the other. In 1936-37 Australia lost the first two Tests to G. O. Allen's side before Bradman won the last three. England, unfortunately, have got no Bradman.

Their best hope is for a slow pitch in Melbourne for the third Test match, on which to regain some semblance of confidence, followed by one that turns in Sydney for the fourth, which is not unlikely. In the next week Denness is going to have to decide, with the help of the tour committee, whether to drop himself from the Test side. He has scored only 206 runs on the tour in 12 innings, and he looks less than most like surviving for any time against Lillee and Thomson. On the other hand, he has led the side pretty well in the field. No captain satisfies all the people all the time unless like Ian Chappell, he has a winning and improving team. I imagine Denness will have one more Test, at least, before handing over to Edrich, his vice-captain, or to Cowdrey if Edrich were not able to play.

Here, and in Brisbane, Fletcher has played no better than Denness. In England's last 25 Test matches before the present series—against India, Pakistan, West Indies, and New Zealand—Fletcher's average was nearer 60 than 50. In four innings here he has made 17, 19, four and nought. He has yet to make a first-class hundred in Australia, either on this tour or the last. I am wondering whether the extra bounce of Australian pitches, combined with Fletcher's lack of inches, is always going to count against him. If it does it will deprive us of a fine player in other countries, who at the start of the tour was England's number two to Amiss.

England's best batsmen in the second innings were their two quadrogenarians, Cowdrey and Titmus. I can think of one or two others, too, who might be welcome out here at the moment: D'Oliveira, for instance, and Close. I would imagine a combined XI, chosen from the two sides that played in this second Test match, might contain three, possibly four, Englishmen: Cowdrey and Titmus, for sure, Greig and Knott most probably.

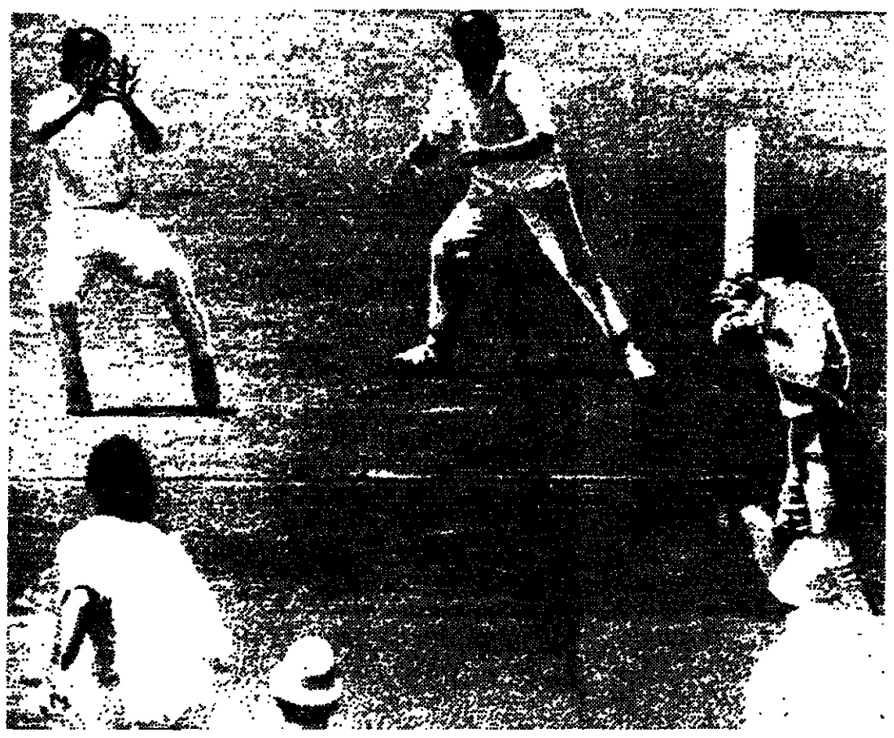
Greig hit the first ball of the first over this morning to third man for four, off the middle of the bat. It gave him false ideas. He seems to think at the moment that he can launch into an attack without needing to play himself in. His arrogance is in danger of becoming a disadvantage. The sixth ball of the day was pitched well up, Greig drove it without bothering to get his foot to the ball and Greg Chappell at first slip held a good head-high catch.

In Thomson's third over he had Denness caught at third slip and Fletcher at the wicket—off his first ball. Denness played much the same stroke as in the first innings, an indeterminate wave. Fletcher's was a splendid ball, lifting from just short of a length and straight enough for Fletcher to feel he had to play it. Knott and Lloyd stayed together for 35 minutes before Knott, as though he had given up the ghost, threw his bat at Lillee and was caught in Greg Chappel's midriff at second slip. Lloyd who looked as though he could have kept going had the incentive not gone, was also caught at slip by Greg Chappell, flashing carelessly at Walker.

By then five wickets had fallen in an hour and a quarter for 54 runs. The last four lasted from 12.15 until 4.35. Which was as long as Titmus batted. Titmus must have thought long ago that his days of avoiding Australian bumpers were over, and of trying to save lost causes for anyone other than Middlesex. But here he was, ducking and weaving against Thomson, and going down the pitch to Mallett, and getting staunchly behind the ball. Titmus played the innings of an old campaigner. It was not what Thomson has come to expect from England's present batsmen.

Luckhurst resisted bravely, and uncomfortably, for two hours and a quarter before being caught in the gully; Old hit boldly (18 runs in one over from Walker) before skying Mallett to midwicket. Arnold was astonishingly caught in the gully, left-handed and diving by Mallett, and the last wicket fell, aptly enough, to another marvellous catch by Greg Chappell, running and tumbling at wide long-off. This gave him a record for Test cricket of seven catches in a match by a fieldsman other than a wicketkeeper. Several players have held six catches, including Cowdrey and also Vic Richardson, the grandfather of the Chappells. Here and in Brisbane, Australia have held no fewer than 26 catches at slip and gully, or behind the wicket, and dropped scarcely any. Such is their form and confidence. Such, too, is England's fallibility to the ball on and outside the off stump.

In Brisbane Thomson finished with nine wickets for 105 runs. Here he had seven for 138, 16 wickets that is at 15 runs apiece. All round Australia boys are running up now and trying to sling the ball down like Thomson. Fortunately for England not many of them will turn out to be as strong as Thomson is. From the Perth pitch, as at Brisbane, his pace was the fiercest of anyone in the match, his lift the steepest, his direction, at times, the most wayward. Rumour has it that Greig is urging him to play for Sussex. If he should there might be a need to ask for batsmen to volunteer to open, on a "greentop" at Hove, with Thomson bowling from one end and Snow from the other.



Knott provides Greg Chappell with one more towards Chappell's record seven catches in the match.

ENGLAND: First Innings. 208
(A. P. E. Knott 51).

Second Innings	
D. Lloyd, c G. Chappell, b Walker	35
M. C. Cowdrey, b Thomson	41
*M. H. Denness, c Redpath, b Thomson	20
A. W. Greig, c G. Chappell, b Thomson	32
K. W. R. Fletcher, c Marsh, b Thomson	0
†A. P. E. Knott, c G. Chappell, b Lillee	18
B. W. Luckhurst, c Mallett, b Lillee	23
F. J. Titmus, c G. Chappell, b Mallett	61
C. M. Old, c Thomson, b Mallett	43
G. G. Arnold, c Mallett, b Thomson	4
R. G. D. Willis, not out	0
Extras (b-b 4, w 1, n-b 11)	16
Total	293

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—62, 2—106, 3—123, 4—124, 5—154, 6—156, 7—219, 8—285, 9—293.

BOWLING: Lillee, 22—5—59—2; Thomson, 25—4—93—5; Walker, 24—7—76—1; Walters, 9—4—17—0; Mallett, 11.1—4—32—2.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 481 (R. Edwards 115, K. D. Walters 103, G. S. Chappell 68).

Second Innings	
I. R. Redpath, not out	12
W. J. Edwards, l-b-w, b Arnold	0
*I. M. Chappell, not out	11
Extras	0
Total (for one wkt)	23

G. S. Chappell, R. Edwards, K. D. Walters, †R. W. Marsh, M. H. N. Walker, D. K. Lillee, A. A. Mallett, J. R. Thomson, did not bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1—4.
BOWLING: Willis, 2—0—8—0, Arnold, 1.7—0—15—1.

Australia won by nine wickets.

THIRD TEST: Dec 26-31, Melbourne.
FOURTH TEST: Jan 4-9, Sydney.
FIFTH TEST: Jan 25-30, Adelaide.
SIXTH TEST: Feb 8-14, Melbourne.

Racing

Gay Kybo takes measure of top weight

Gay Kybo, who used to be trained by Peter Cazalet, won the race named after the late trainer at Plumpton yesterday. The six-year-old, owned by Cazalet's friend, Isador Kerman, overcame a bump which put the favourite, Chance a Look, out of the race, took the measure of top weight, Soho Sol, at the last fence, and ran on well.

Cazalet was leading trainer at Plumpton for the five years up to his death in 1973. Mr Kerman said: "This has given me tremendous pleasure. Peter trained my horses for many years."

Gay Kindersley, whose Carrickbeg was beaten by three quarters of a length by Ayala in the 1963 Grand National, has Aintree on the agenda for Black Tudor, surprise winner of the Keymer Steeplechase. The odds-on favourite, Khan, never jumping fluently, put his hind legs in the water on the second circuit and that put paid to any chance he held. My Virginian was still in command at that point, tracked by Black Tudor, who took over coming to the second last and won by 15 lengths.

Tough task for Anthony Watt

By Jim Snow

Among the 93 horses declared to run in the six races at Catterick Bridge today there is one of top class, the eight-year-old Anthony Watt whom Tony Dickinson runs in the three-mile Danby Handicap Steeplechase in preference to Donohill, his recent winner at Ayr.

Last season, Anthony Watt won a £2,000 handicap at Sandown Park and finished third to Red Candle and Red Rum in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury, carrying 11 st. He was giving the winner 10 lb and receiving only 4 lb from Red Rum, later to win the Grand National for the second time and make himself rightly the equine hero of Lancashire.

With such form behind him Anthony Watt was automatically given 12 st 7 lb for today's race, and the question is whether on his first run this season he is forward enough to concede from 16 lb to 35 lb to his seven rivals. It is asking a lot, particularly if the going, officially forecast as good, becomes soft or heavy. There were some sharp bitter squalls yesterday in the area, and the ground on any course in December can change in an hour or two as a result of a downpour lasting a couple of hours.

Should Anthony Watt, the type of staying steeplechaser that can win the National Hunt Handicap Steeplechase at Cheltenham or earlier one of the valuable three-miles and more handicaps at Haydock Park and Newcastle, fail this afternoon on his reappearance he would not lose his high reputation.

But one of the features of jumping in the northern area in the past two months has been the number of victories of horses from Dickinson's Guisburn stable in Lancashire, who were racing for the first time in a new season. The Dickinsons, father and son Michael, are now a strong force in National Hunt racing. Their horses are turned out in great condition and run as well as their appearance suggests.

Michael Dickinson, aged 24, the champion amateur in 1970, who in that year decided to ride professionally, does full justice to them. Were he to become champion jockey in the future, which is not unlikely, he would set up a record. At 6ft 2in he is the tallest professional now riding, but somehow he managed last week to get his weight down to 10st 4lb. This afternoon with 12st 7lb on Anthony Watt he can give himself the luxury of a bigger saddle.

I take Anthony Watt to win from Meridian II, Tartan Tutor, and Scout, on the basis of his class. Perhaps the chief danger will come from Arthur Stephenson's Scout, who started favourite for the Grand National in March as a result of a vast amount of money for him during the morning and half an hour before the race. Scout ran well for more than three miles, but faded three fences out to finish tenth to Red Rum.

Wylam Boy, a stable companion of Scout, may be another win for Tommy Stack in the f division of the Streetlam Novi Hurdle (1.45), and Ron Barry likely to take the second divis (3.15) on Cricket Boot. At Ke Wylam Boy was beaten by extremely useful novice, L'Alg and Cricket Bout ran well fo long way at Southwell when f to Master Mint. Three len covered the first five horses the post.

At Towcester, a penalty sh not stop Celtic View from gai his third consecutive victory the Menlo Park Steeplechase. has won his last two race December at Newton Abbott Cheltenham by seven and lengths. Raynham, who Spartan, second yesterday at wick, at Nottingham two w ago, is preferred in the Sh Handicap Hurdle to Yasou, run up at Market Rasen to Fixby G Arne Folly and The Snipe sound claims in the John Handicap Steeplechase (2.30) the Northampton Novices' Hu (3.0).

Arne Folly was well up with leaders at Cheltenham wher came down two fences from h The Snipe ran with much c at Nottingham when secon Prince Antoine, and the oppos today is not too strong.

STATE OF GOING (official): Catterick Bridge: Good. Towcester: Tomorrow: Folkestone. Heavy. S well: Heavy.

Catterick Bridge programme

12.45 KIPLIN HURDLE (Handicap: £204: 2m)

2	120100	Tonghie (D) (Mrs A. Naughton)	M. Naughton 7-10-0 J. Mooney 5
3	00/0-00	Indian Fort (D)	K. Sutton, Sutton, 5-10-0 M. Stephens 5
5	0p0010	Cremnor Maid (D) (Mrs Pullen)	A. Bastman, 4-10-8 P. Cawkwell 5
7	132-003	Night Skits (D)	W. Robson, L. Shedden, 5-10-5 P. Salmon 5
8	0230/00	Golden Idle (Miss Wingett)	J. Wingett, Wingett, 5-10-5 A. Knights 5
10	03-3332	Gay Tip (Mrs Leck)	R. Titterington, 8-10-5 C. Brownlees
11	4043-00	Paradis (CD)	B. Field, B. McMahon, 5-10-5 C. Harrhy
12	200000	Sammy's Grove	K. Tulloch, Tulloch, 5-10-5 D. Wall 5
13		Mellow Man	B. Cambidge, 5-10-5 D. Wall 5
14	0-02040	I Like It (D)	D. Cornish, E. Richmond, 5-10-5 M. O'Shea 5
15	430040	Lord Street	E. Clyne, S. Nesbitt, 4-10-5 D. Nesbitt 5
16	00000-0	Baron Ingram (D. Thompson)	Wallace, 5-10-5 P. Campbell 5

3-1 Tonghie, 7-2 Indian Fort, 5-1 Night Skits, 13-2 I Like It, 8-1 Cremnor Maid, 10-1 Gay Tip, 12-1 Paradis, 33-1 others.

1.15 DANBY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £491: 3m 300yd)

1	11324-	Anthony Watt (J. Anthony)	A. Dickinson, 8-12-7 M. Dickinson
5	f010-0p	Corrie Burn (Mrs Fairburn)	Fairburn, 8-11-5 Mr Williams
4	0p-122P	Scent (A. Allen)	W. A. Stephenson, 8-11 T. Stack
6	210-032	Bailie (J. Bailie)	J. Miller, 7-10-10 R. Barry
7	0-124f2	Tartan Tutor (CD)	R. Bethell, Bethell, 7-10-9 C. Tinkler
8	022-2	Panzer (A. Snipe)	M. H. Easterby, 8-10-0 T. Skiffington
9	p042f2	Sparta Again (C. Courage)	Mr Lamb, 8-10-0 Mr Lamb
11	231122/0	Ballyath (N. Le Mare)	D. McCain, 8-10-0 J. J. O'Neill

2-1 Anthony Watt, 9-2 Scout, 7-1 Sparkle Again, Meridian II 10-1 Tartan Tutor, 12-1 Ballyath, Corrie Burn, 14-1 Panzer.

1.45 STREETLAM HURDLE (Div I: £204: 2m)

3	22-0	Crags Park (Mrs Turner)	W. A. Stephenson, 5-11-12 J. Murphy 7
6	3223-	King's Hussar (Mrs Richardson)	W. A. Stephenson, 5-11-12 D. Barnes 7
7		Potterton (B. Cambidge)	Cambidge, 5-11-2 D. Wall 7
8	0	Slievenamon (P. Cartridge)	M. Oliver, 5-11-12 P. Barton 7
9	000-0	Sailplane (Mrs Mactaggart)	Mactaggart, 5-11-12 Mr Mactaggart
10	000	Trumpet Dance (W. Reid)	D. Morley, 5-11-12 R. Barry
11	0b2	Wylam Boy (Mrs Leck)	W. A. Stephenson, 5-11-12 T. Stack
12		Ballistic (D. Aaron)	Aaron, 4-11-7 K. McCauley
13	p200	Sand Businesse (C. Haigh)	Haigh, 4-11-7 C. Maxey
15		Cromwell Road (Mrs Berry)	G. Richards, 4-11-7 J. J. O'Neill
18	02000-0	French William (R. Quincey)	C. Lamb, 4-11-7 Mr Lamb
19	00	Gold Escort (W. A. Stephenson)	Stephenson, 4-11-7 G. Faulkner 7
21	0	Mary Jump (D. Dipple)	R. E. Peacock, 4-11-7 J. Suthern
22		Master Ted (P. Hunt)	Miss S. Hall, 4-11-7 D. Munro
23	00	Pipurma (C. Dukes)	Dukes, 4-11-7 C. Lockerbie 7
24	0	Lisa Jo (W. Newton)	Easterby, 4-11-7 C. Tinkler
25	00	Roast Chestnut (Mrs Russell)	D. Williams, 4-11-7 G. Griffin
30	020	Sollom Song (A. Jaquiss)	McCain, 4-11-7 R. Crank
32	00	Symbra (J. Winter)	B. Wilkinson, 4-11-7 D. Atkins
35	0w00-0	Tudor Court (F. Smith)	Shedden, 4-11-7 —
36	f	Vignette (A. Graham)	T. Barnes, 4-11-7 M. Barnes
38	2	Willow Walk (W. Barker)	J. Calvert, 4-11-7 Mr Tinkler 7

6-2 Wylam Boy, 7-2 Willow Walk, 7-1 King's Hussar, Cromwell Road, 10-1 Mary Jump, Sollom Song, 12-1 Rhine King, 14-1 Bold Buccaneer, 16-1 Cress Park, 20-1 others.

2.15 ELLERTON STEEPLECHASE (£272: 2m)

1	0330-0	Acid Drop	J. Croft, F. Dever, 6-11-11 S. Taylor
2	4fff00	Gay Kempley (D. McLaughlin)	R. E. Peacock, 7-11-11 R. Crank
3	pp	Last Approach	Oliver, M. Oliver, 7-11-11 P. Barton 7
4	p02s0p	New Wine (Lt Col. Bolton)	Bolton, 6-11-11 Mr Orde Powlett 7
5	pfp	Royal Playboy (Mrs Dawson)	Miss S. Hall, 5-11-1 P. Mangan
8	400p0-0	Sailor Dan (W. Simpson)	Simpson, 7-11-11 A. M
9	00p-	Tatters Ian (J. Howle)	Howle, 6-11-11 D. Gol
11	uf	Treasure Chart (Mrs Gare)	Gare, 5-11-11 R.
12	00	Little Spice (W. A. Stephenson)	Stephenson, 5-11-9 T.
13	0f0000	Never There (L. Irving)	Barnes, 4-11-0 M. B

2-1 New Wine, 7-2 Gay Kempley, 5-1 Treasure Chart, 8-1 Little Spice, Sailor Dan, 14-1 Acid Drop, 20-1 others.

2.45 BROMPTON HURDLE (£204: 3m 300yd)

2	000-130	Mullacrew (J. Lovell)	A. Dickinson, 5-12-10 Mr Greer
3	4324/0	Harmony Hall (J. Skiffington)	Stephenson, 5-12-10 Mr Skiffington
4	00-p0	Arcticality (J. Slatter)	M. Oliver, 5-12-0 Mr Parr
5	0002-0	Ba-bie's Song (Miss Riddell)	G. Fairbairn, 5-12-0 Mr Wi
7	0-0	Forest King (K. Ivey)	K. Ivey, 5-12-0 Mr G
8	03-4322	Legenda (W. A. Stephenson)	W. A. Stephenson, 5-12-0 Mr G
9		Golden Ethics (Mrs Turner)	Turner, 6-12-0 Mr Macta
13	04	Lemon Tree (Mrs Cameron)	W. A. Stephenson, 5-12-0 Mr Pa
14	0f	Queen of Honour (Mrs Gare)	Gare, 5-12-0
15	00000-0	Martial Miss (H. Duff)	Duff, 5-12-0 Mr Wal
17	f34300-	Moneyman (R. Page)	Page, 5-12-0 Mr P
18	000-0	Moonlight Gambler (W. Taylor)	Taylor, 5-12-0 Mr Ta
19	f0-	Wild Courage (P. Courage)	Courage, 5-12-0 Mr Cami
20		Perfect Match (S. Rostron)	J. Calvert, 5-12-0 Mr Tin
21	0-	Perpetual Rhythm (C. Dukes)	Dukes, 7-12-0 Mr Wal
22	00-000p	Rough Diamond (J. Dodds)	Dodds, 5-12-0 Mr Beur
24	u	Sun Lord (R. Riddell)	N. Oliver, 5-12-0 Mr
26	p00	Vital Sanction (S. Sayles)	Sayles, 9-12-0 Mr Sim
27	000003	Grand Sprite (Miss Wilson)	G. Cunard, 5-12-0 Mr Macl

11-4 Grenada, 4-1 Mullacrew, Hero of King, 5-1 Grand Sprite, 8-1 Ro Legend, 10-1 Lemon Tree, 12-1 Mark of Honour, 14-1 Sun Lord, 16-1 G Ethics, 20-1 others.

3.15 STREETLAM HURDLE (Div II: £204: 2m)

2	4-0f	Gold Prince	R. Bethell, Bethell, 5-11-12 C. T
3	0	Kathy's Boy (Mrs MacArthur)	D. Doyle, 5-11-12 J.
4		Kero Code (Mrs Langford-Brooke)	A. Dickinson, 5-11-12 Mr
5	3222-03	Lovely Lilting (A. Thomas)	F. Dever, 5-11-12 S. T
8	04	March Malona (A. Hodge)	D. Weeden, 5-11-12 J.
9		Maritime Lass (Blackshaw)	Blackshaw, 5-11-12 D. B
10		Royal Ziska (R. Starbuck)	B. Cambidge, 5-11-12 B. Fle
11	0304-f0	Well Dealt (D. Smith)	M. Oliver 5-11-12 P. Bar
12	00	Aire-Slim (Mrs Arnold)	C. Jones, 4-11-7 S. H
17	00	Cricket Bere (Mrs Morley)	D. Morley, 4-11-7 R.
18		Crown Court (Mrs Walton)	Walton, 4-11-7 Mr W
19	0-	Dux McGregory (S. Hall)	A. Hall, 4-11-7 D. S
20	240-300	Eastern American (P. Wiggett)	H. Morris, 4-11-7 P. S
22	00	Fair Odds (W. A. Stephenson)	Stephenson, 4-11-7 Mr Phe
23	040-f	Going My Way (A. Kelly)	J. FitzGerald, 4-11-7 R. O'R
25		Indian Guide (M. Vernon)	W. Simpson, 4-11-7 A. M
26	000-3	Lido Light (W. Hunter)	Lamb, 4-11-7 Mr
27	0	Little Whittington (J. White)	G. Richards, 4-11-7 J. J. O
31	0-00	Sherry Bird (Mrs Bird)	K. Whitehead, 4-11-7 G. H
32		Simalikan (J. Sutton)	W. A. Stephenson, 4-11-7 Mr
34	023	Sky Tour (R. Earl)	Lacey Smith, 4-11-7 P. Broc
35	00	Tragacanth (M. Taylor)	Payne, 4-11-7 N. Banc

7-1 Sky Tour, 5-1 Ma ch Malona, Cricket Boot, 8-1 Eastern American, Whittington, 10-1 Lovely Lilting, 14-1 Kero Code, Lido Light, 20-1 others.

Catterick Bridge selections

By Our Racing Staff
12.45 Indian Fort. 1.15 Anthony Watt. 1.45 Wylam Boy. 2.15 Kempley. 2.45 Forest King. 3.15 Cricket Boot.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
3.15 Cricket Boot.

Towcester programme

12.30 CARMEL HURDLE (£238: 2m)

1	003-	Alpine Prince	N. Sherwood, Sherwood, 11-12-0 A. Webber
2	04000-0	Anglesey Royal (D)	S. Jones, W. Whiston, 8-12-0 R. F. Davies
3	00020-f0	Blakedown	N. Hickman, D. Gandolfo, 6-10-0 W. Shoemark
4	10000-	Stocking (CD)	Tory, K. Tory, 7-12-0 C. Thorner
8	pp0-	Scottish Secrets (M. Harris)	P. Kearney, 5-11-12 R. Mangan 7
10		Lavender Trousers (M. Toulson)	G. Wallace, 8-11-9 R. Weaver
11	ppp-00	Straight Tickle (J. Marriage)	Marriage, 11-11-9 A. Heath 7
12	f0	Country Squire (M. Orme)	Barsby, 5-11-7 P. Russell
14	40f3f3	Hill Leys (B. Allen)	J. Webber, 5-11-7 Mr Morahead 7
15	0-0	Ray of Light (R. Moore)	A. Bevan, 5-11-7 P. Connors 3
16	0	Recorded Delivery (D. Parsiow)	Parsiow, 5-11-7 Mr Brown 7
17	0024-00	Uriankhai's Boy (J. Edwards)	H. O'Neill, 5-11-7 C. O'Neill 7
20	4	Persian King (J. Barker)	W. Wharton, 4-11-6 M. Blackshaw

2-1 Persian King, 7-2 Anglesey Royal, 9-2 Blakedown, 5-1 Hill Leys, 7-1 Stocking, 10-1 Alpine Prince, 16-1 others.

1.0 MENLO PARK STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £374: 3m 190yds)

1	0-00242	Indian Red (M. Marsh)	Marsh, 9-11-12 M. Gifford
3	40f-200	Vindicate (Mrs Head)	Head, 7-11-5 J. Francome
4	1-23f11	Celtic View (G. Kindersley)	Kindersley, 7-11-4 C. Candy
5	3433-f0	Darlington Charlie (J. Sligo)	W. Wharton, 6-10-13 T. Stack
7	00-000	Khalcipetic (Miss Blackall)	J. Milner, 7-10-10 R. Crank
8	u04-pp0	Gold Customer (J. Brazil)	P. Cundell, 6-10-9 R. Champion
9	3w0p4-	Mister Tadpole (A. Bullivant)	J. Dudgeon, 9-10-8 Major Shaw 5
11	1-00000	Another Medda (Mrs Richards)	S. Mellor, 8-10-6 J. Glover
12	2f4423	Tantisa (R. Brassey)	Brassey, 6-10-0 J. Bourke
14	40f00s	Ranger (S. Retter)	D. Barons, 9-10-0 S.
15	31002s	Captain Clover (A. Stevens)	Stevens, 4-10-0 N. Flanagan 5
16	730f	Queen Bess (J. Rose)	J. Harris, 8-10-0 J. Marshall 7

Evens Indian Red, 4-1 Celtic View, 5-1 Vindicate, 7-1 Darlington Charlie, 8-1 Captain Clover, 14-1 others.

1.30 SHARON HURDLE (Handicap): £374: 2m)

5	2113-01	Raynham (D) (Miss Thorley)	D. Morley, 4-12-4 R. R. Davies
6	400-000	Tip The Wink (M. Simmonds)	P. Taylor, 4-11-12 J. Francome
7	0000-00	Nelson Boy (D) (A. Darlington)	D. Barons, 4-11-8 D. Cartwright
8	3-21102	Yasou (D) (J. Beasley)	P. Cundell, 4-11-6 R. Pitman
10	103-000	Jamaya (D) (B. Allen)	J. Webber, 4-10-6 A. Webber
12	413142	Flintstone (D) (Mrs Meats)	D. Barons, 4-10-5 V. Soane
14	f-	Garter Wood (D) (D. Oseman)	Oseman, 5-10-0 Mr Smith 7

2-1 Raynham, 9-4 Yasou, 4-1 Flintstone, 6-1 Tip The Wink, 7-1 Nelson Boy, 16-1 others.

2.0 NORTHAMPTON HURDLE (Div I: £204: 2m)

1	301	Veyatie (Mrs Vestey)	F. Winter, 5-12-0 R. F
2	4	Bimbashi (B. Rice)	Rice, 5-11-4 Mr Sau
3	3-4	Jack the Ripper (Mrs Harris)	K. Bailey, 7-11-4 D. Sunde
5	f	Richie's Fire (Mrs Edwards)	P. Taylor, 6-11-4 J. Fre
9	0004-00	Swinging Chick (R. Moore)	P. Bevan, 6-11-4 P. F
10	1-0	Tim Ding (Mrs Lugg)	T. Forster, 5-11-4 G. Th
13	3-00	Call Me King (M. Taylor)	G. Kindersley, 4-11-0 W. Shoe
14	404-040	Equivocal (Mrs Prior)	Ancil, 4-11-0 R. F

4-6 Veyatie, 9-2 Tim Ding, 7-1 Bimbashi, 10-1 Jack the Ripper, 12-1 Ca King, 16-1 others.

2.30 JOHN CLARE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £479: 50yds)

1	03112-2	Cape Clarendon (CD)	J. Murdoch, F. Cundell, 6-11-10 B. R.
4	401030	Licter (E. Courage)	Courage, 7-11-1 D. Sunde
5	21402	Master Clive (B. Allen)	J. Webber, 6-11-0 Mr W
6	30012-2	Salsa Pasha (L. Edmonds)	R. Edwards, 9-10-12 C. Golds
10	30-0211	Arne Folly (N. James)	E. Champneys, 11-10-8 J. Frer
14	000014	Some Surprise (R. Arden)	D. Barons, 6-10-4 S.
15	00p-	Pangeno (J. Stanley)	W. Whiston, 9-10-0 R. F.

5-2 Cape Clarendon, 100-30 Sajara Pasha, 5-1 Master Clive, 7-1 Licter Some Surprise, 9-1 Arne Folly, 25-1 Pangeno.

3.0 NORTHAMPTON HURDLE (Div II: £204: 2m)

3	03020	Bills Bounty (R. Duckfield)	S. Wright, 5-11-4 Mr Jo
4	4-p00	Christmas Chorus (Mrs Roberts)	D. Barons, 5-11-4 V.
7	043-f22	Cochineal (Mrs White)	T. Forster, 6-11-4 G. Th
8	0-0p	Meadow (L. Sasse)	D. Sasse, 6-11-4 A. Bra
9	0002-00	Mild Cheese (Mrs O'Mahony)	O. O'Neill, 6-11-4 M. Jan
11	0031	Race Riot (R. Tinney)	Tinney, 5-11-4 R. Nay
10	313-000	Serogan (A. Wiseman)	D. Gandolfo, 5-11-4 W. Shoe
12	-4	Chief Scout (Mr. Brice)	D. Ringer, 4-11-0 W. G
13	20	Pampered Miss (L. Marie)	S. Mellor, 4-11-0 J. G
14	0b2	The Snipe (G. Richmond-Watson)	J. Webber, 4-11-0 A. W

3-1 Cochineal, 100-30 Pampered Miss, 4-1 The Snipe, 7-1 Bills Bounty Chief Scout, 9-1 Serogan, 10-1 Race Riot, 14-1 others.

Towcester selections

By Our Racing Staff
12.30 Persian King. 1.0 Celtic View. 1.30 Raynham. 2.0 Veyatie. Arne Folly. 3.0 The Snipe.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
1.30 Raynham. 3.0 Chief Scout.

Tennis

Newcombe worried about his excess weight

Sydney, Dec 17.—John Newcombe, the former Wimbledon champion, reached the third round of the New South Wales championships here today and then headed for the hills to shed excess weight.

Newcombe, 30, beat Uli Pinner, of West Germany, 6—4, 6—4, in the second round today but admitted afterwards that he was "anything but happy with his form and weight".

Pinching the flesh around his waist, he said: "I've got to get this stuff off if I want to win here and then show Jim Connors in the Australian championships next week that he is not entitled to top world ranking".

Newcombe then left the courts to run up a steep hill near his Sydney home in an attempt to tone up for the task ahead. He has spent the past two days running up and down the hill and feels the tough course will have him at peak fitness by the end of the week.

"I reckon I'm six or seven pounds overweight and not as strong in the legs as I should be", said the world's former No 1 who failed this year at Wimbledon, Forest Hills and in last week's masters tournament in Melbourne.

Newcombe did not need to hit top gear today in dismissing Pinner but relished the opportunity to run around the court in the blistering heat in a bid to sweat out any excess weight.

Mrs Margaret Court, 11 times Australian women's champion, who is making a comeback, had to overcome plucky resistance from fellow-Australian Christine O'Neill before reaching the third round of the women's singles.

MEN'S SINGLES.—First round: U. Pinner (West Germany) beat H. Britton, 6—4, 6—3. Second round: M. Achette (UE) beat F. Stolle 6—4, 6—3; G. Masters beat J. Andres (US) 6—7, 7—5, 8—7; Crealy beat P. Bout (France) 6—3, 6—3; R. Reid (US) beat R. Lewis 6—1, 1—6, 7—5; A. Metreveli (USSR) beat J. Lloyd-Mayo (Wales) 6—3, 6—3; S. Ball beat V. Singh (India) 6—7, 7—5, 8—6; J. Newcombe beat U. Pinner (West Germany) 6—4, 6—4; A. Rocha beat S. Docherty (US) 6—1, 6—4; C. McNamara beat U. Marten (West Germany) 6—2, 6—3, 6—3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES.—Second round: M. Court beat C. O'Neill 7—5, 6—2; O. Morozova (USSR) beat P. Whytcross (Eton) beat J. R. Cawdrey (Tunbridge) 15—1, 15—0; N. E. C. Barbain (Eton) beat J. E. M. Pycraft (Radley) 15—6, 15—0; R. M. Bradon (Haileybury) beat R. D. Abbott (Marlborough) 15—5, 15—11; F. M. Capes (Clifton) beat Clarke, 15—3, 15—2; Forsyth beat Hough, 15—11, 18—16; D. K. Watson (Marlborough) beat A. G. T. Pepper (Radley) 15—9, 15—10; C. P. Worlidge (Marlborough) beat C. R. Fuente (Tonbridge) 3—15, 15—7, 15—11; N. B. F. Hubbard (Clifton) beat I. A. Anton (Rugby) 15—7, 15—11; R. M. Findall (Harrow) beat R. D. Reynish (Malvern) 15—0, 15—0; G. A. J. de Lotbiniere (Harrow) beat R. M. U. Lambert (Winchester) 18—13, 15—2; S. J. Lillyman (Marlborough) beat M. A. A. Foss (Clifton) 15—7, 15—3; P. J. Rosser (Malvern) beat W. J. Maltby (Wellington) 15—0, 15—5.

COLTS SINGLES.—First round: J. F. C. Faber (Eton) beat M. J. L. Paul (Harrow) 15—8, 18—15; P. Clarke (Malvern) beat N. J. A. Benda (Winchester) 15—5, 15—0; M. J. Hough (Winchester) beat C. R. Kingdon (Tonbridge) 15—10, 15—1; J. G. Forsyth (Malvern) beat T. H. Breitmeyer (Winchester) 17—14, 15—12; P. W. A. Westerman (Charterhouse) beat A. G. J. Bett (Tonbridge) 15—12, 17—14; P. S. R. Wallis (Haileybury) beat S. D. Walker (Charterhouse) 15—8, 15—2; S. Hughes (Clifton) beat N. A. Hinds (Marlborough) 15—5, 15—3; A. J. McDonald (Malvern) beat A. Edwards (Winchester) 15—1, 15—3; R. J. Carver (Rugby) beat C. Innes (Eton) 15

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Football

Another young player runs away from modern day pressures

By Norman Fox

Kevin Beattie, of Ipswich Town, yesterday admitted that he had succumbed to the pressures of modern football and instead of travelling to Aberdeen to play for the England Under-23 team against Scotland tonight had gone to Carlisle to "have a talk with mum". He left his home in Ipswich on Monday and should have joined the England manager, Don Revie, in Manchester but changed his mind on the train and after a night with his parents he will return home today hoping that he had not ruined his international career.

Beattie is 21 today and considered to be one of the best players in Britain. However, the strain of playing too much football under the spotlight of too much publicity has affected many young players in the past few seasons and not all have released their tensions as harmlessly as going to have a pint and a game of dominoes with their fathers. It is too easily said that he should not have agreed to play in the match if he felt so oppressed and at least he made belated apologies.

The England team for tonight's game has already been severely weakened by injuries and the withdrawal of players for club matches. Beattie would certainly have been included, but he said: "I am sorry but Mr Revie will have to forget me for this game. I am just too shattered to give my best. No one has any ideas of the pressures involved. I have played 150 games in three seasons and lately, when things haven't gone so well, everyone is on your back wherever you go.

"Also my four-week-old daughter wakes us up at four or five every morning. I can't get back to sleep so I am shattered during the day. During the train journey to join the party in Manchester all this built up and I decided to come home to have a chat with Mum. She is the only one who understands me. I feel so shattered both physically and mentally that I don't think I could have given England my best. All I want to do is to have a rest. But I still love football and still would like to play for England. I only hope Don Revie understands how I feel."

Beattie's mother said: "Kevin is the type of boy who lets things get on top of him and he tends to keep everything to himself. We have had a long chat and I think he feels better. I think he did the right thing. I only hope it doesn't affect his career."

Ipswich Town's manager, Bobby Robson, said last night. "I tried to persuade Beattie to get on a train to Aberdeen to join the England squad, but he refused on the grounds that he was feeling shattered. There was nothing I could do about it. The boy has definitely been suffering from a virus infection that has pulled him down. When he played for us against Coventry on November 16 it was beyond the call of duty and he subsequently had to withdraw from the full England squad against Portugal and our match at Derby the following weekend. He is only 20 and a more experienced professional would have discussed the position either with myself or with Don Revie before taking a decision of this sort by himself."

Mr Revie, also Beattie's wife, spent a worrying day on Monday when it seemed that the player had disappeared without trace. Mr Revie waited for him at Manchester after hearing that he had missed one train. He waited for another train and then contacted Ipswich who told him that Beattie was last at the club at midday. Mr Revie said: "We then got in touch with his wife and even she didn't know where he was. She was frantic with worry." All players in England parties are told that they have to telephone or telegram the Football Association if they are unable to meet their commitments.

When Mr Revie did eventually discover that Beattie was in Carlisle he said he was hopeful that the player would join the party in time for the match and decided not to select the team until this morning because of that. Although he now knows that Beattie will not play, Mr Revie has decided that the team announcement must still wait until this morning because two of Beattie's club colleagues, Whymark and Johnson, and several other players, are unavailable.

Beattie's powerful midfield play has been crucial to the success of Ipswich. He is one of the hardest tacklers in the game and puts great physical effort into every match. He has appeared in eight under-23 international matches although only making his first appearance for the Ipswich first division team at the start of the 1972-73 season. Since then he has been seen as a certain candidate for the full England team and it was possible that had he played this evening it would have been on the left side of the defence, which is England's weakest position. The withdrawal of Hudson put doubt on the experiment because Beattie would have been required in midfield, and, if Mr Revie and the Football Association decide to discipline Beattie, it could be some time before the difficulty is solved.

Scotland's manager, William Ormond, said yesterday that he would not choose his team until he had seen what ground conditions were like in Aberdeen.



Kevin Beattie playing dominoes in a Carlisle pub yesterday. Not all have released their tensions as harmlessly.

Ticket distribution will set a problem

Mr Alan Hardaker, the Football League secretary, confirmed yesterday that it was "basically true" that Manchester United's two league games for the remainder of this season would be all-ticket. This follows the meeting on Monday of the League management committee at which the Football Association were also represented, which discussed the trouble arising from hooligan United supporters at and outside many grounds when the Manchester club are visitors.

Mr Hardaker said: "I have the task of organizing what the management committee want to put into practice, and as soon as the wording has been worked out and ratified by everybody concerned, the press will be the first to know.

"It would be more easy if ill-informed people did not give information to the press about something they do not begin to understand."

Mr Hardaker added that the FA would probably take similar action over United if they were involved in away FA Cup games. This position does not arise for the third round on January 4, when United are at home to Walsall, and their next four away League games—at York, Oldham, Sunderland and Oxford—have already been arranged as all-ticket matches.

A Manchester United official said that the club would not comment until they had been informed officially, but later the club secretary, Mr Leslie Oliver, said: "We have not yet had any official instructions from the government or the Football League, but are considering how we can carry out the requirements mentioned in the press. Our problem will be to achieve a distribution that will include our genuine supporters, but will cut out the hooligans and this will be difficult where they do not travel with an official supporters' organization. We shall issue details when the full instructions have been received and hope to include an announcement in the programme of January 4."

York City, who entertain United on Saturday, are erecting an eight-foot metal and wire fence behind their Bootham Crescent goal, where the United's 6,000 spectators will be segregated. The gate has been limited to 17,500. York's secretary, Mr George Teasdale, said. "I think it is sad that we have had to take this step, but we are determined that our own supporters will be able to watch the match in complete safety."

Manchester United's manager, Tommy Docherty, has selected a 14-strong party squad for tonight's quarter-final League Cup replay against Middlesbrough at Old Trafford. He has named the side that drew with Orient on Saturday minus Davies, who is cup-tied. Young, James and McCalliog have been added to the party.

Middlesbrough's England Under-23 forward, Mills, may return for the replay. He has been out of action with a calf injury since November 9 and faces an early morning fitness test.

"I have felt no reaction from my injury and I have stepped up training", said Mills. "If I play I am sure to be shattered at the final whistle. But it will be well worth it." Also needing a fitness test is the 18-year-old forward, Willey.

Chester's home replay against Newcastle United will be another sell-out for the fourth division club. Their allocation of 14,500 tickets was sold at the weekend and a further 2,000 returned from Newcastle were sold yesterday.

Today's fixtures

Under-23 international
Scotland v England (at Aberdeen, 7.30)

FA Cup
Second round replay
Bournemouth v Wycombe W (7.30)

League Cup
Fifth round replays
Chester v Newcastle (7.30)
Manchester Utd v Middlesbrough (7.30)

Scottish Cup
First round replay
E Stirling v Stenhousemuir (7.30)
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: First division (North): Cheltenham v Milton Keynes (7.30); King's Lynn v Enderby (7.30).
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Worksop v Gainsborough.
FA VASE: Third round (second replay): Wootton Blue Cross v Baldock Town (at Bedford Town, 7.30).
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: United Hospitals v London Barts (at Stoke D'Abernon, 2.0).

Rugby Union
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Southeast Group play off: Surrey v Middlesex (7.30).
CLUB MATCH: Moseley v Newport (7.30).
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: UAU v Public Schools Wanderers (at Rosslyn Park ground, 7.30).
RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Wigan v Featherstone (7.30).

Hockey
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: London University v Army (2.30).

Results yesterday

FA Cup
Second round replays
Bury (1) 2 Grimsby (1) 1
Spence Lewis
Duffey (4,646)
Winners home to Millwall
Lincoln (0) 1 Hartlepool (0) 0
Cooper (4,986)
Winners away to Swindon Town
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Cup (third round): Dartford 2, Nuneaton 2. Premier division: Barnet 0, Burton 2; Romford 1, Weymouth 1; Wimbledon 1, Cambridge City 0. First division (north): Banbury 0, AP Leamington 4.
LONDON SENIOR CUP: Third round: Bishop's Stortford 0, Dagenham 1.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Hitchin Town 3, Clapton 1; Tooting and Mitcham 0, Bulwich 3.
RUGBY LEAGUE: Floodlit cup: Final: Salford 0, Warrington 0.

Derby County directors at their board meeting tomorrow will again discuss the state of the pitch at the Baseball Ground which has come in for renewed criticism. Everton's manager, Billy Bingham, said after Saturday's game at Derby that the pitch was "a mud-heap, an absolute disgrace".

Boxing

When victor had to ask himself what went wrong

From Neil Allen
Boxing Correspondent
Paris, Dec 17

It is well after midnight in the foyer of a modern, totally impersonal Paris hotel. Ken Buchanan, still European lightweight boxing champion, walks in with a towel shrouding his head, covering his grotesquely swollen left eyebrow, which has just had two stitches inserted in it before he was jolted by an anti-tetanus injection in his right thigh.

Buchanan is his own manager, he has been fighting for his place in the sun for many years, and he knows what the British press want as he removed the towel to show his wound. He also knows he needs their company to express the dissatisfaction and frustration from an imperfect title defence against Leonard Tavarez, of France, and the conviction that he is for all his talent, ignored by British boxing promoters.

His brother Alan, another boxer, though not with the same dazzling ability, is asked to get him a coke, and winces at the price. Ken Buchanan sips through battered lips which cannot bear the sting of an orange juice, juggles the ice cubes around his broken mouth, and occasionally dabs at the mutilated left side of his face. "I don't know what went wrong", he says as wearily as though he had been the loser. Then he starts to work it all out.

"I had nine rounds, no, only six rounds of sparring in preparation for this fight. It materialized only in the last three or four weeks and I was short of sparring partners. I've beaten this guy Tavarez twice before so I thought I'd do him easily. I thought it was just a formality. I tried to knock him out as soon as I could, I made it hard for myself even though he was knackered after eight rounds."

He is sitting with nine reporters as the hall porters peer curiously from behind pillars at the intense young man with the battered face. He holds court alone, trying to find the reasons why he only stopped Tavarez, with the Frenchman's towel thrown into the ring, after 13 rounds of sometimes desultory action.

"My right didna' come through", the champion from Edinburgh confirms. "Last time I looked this bad afterwards it was against Laguna for the world title. I shouldna' be going home like this, I should be fresh and nice. I felt flat, I wasna' conditioned properly. I felt good enough beforehand, but there was something missing."

Buchanan breaks off to tell us a lot of off the record things about the annoyance of not being invited to box in Britain when you know you are the best lightweight in the world and "that big Hungarian stiff" (by which he means heavyweight Joe Bugner) is hogging up all the cash rewards.

"Don't quote me," he says about one involved story, "I'll wait until I'm nearly in my grave and then I'll tell that story. They canna' touch you when you're dead.

Rugby Union

Selection of teams for final trial indicates a positive approach

By Peter West

This season's international championship will begin with England, in one respect, at some disadvantage compared with the other home countries. Scotland have had the opportunity of a trial run against Tonga, Wales likewise against New Zealand, not to mention their contest with Tonga when they fielded a team somewhat below full strength. Ireland picked their best side for the centenary match in September, and again, of course, against New Zealand. But England, facing Ireland at Lansdowne Road in mid-January, will be starting "cold". No wonder that their new coach, John Burgess, is anxious for as many training weekends as he can get.

Against all this, the selection of the two teams for the final trial on Saturday indicates a positive attitude to current problems, wherein Burgess may be assumed to have played a forthright part. Cotton's nomination as captain of the senior side can only mean that he is intended to lead England in Dublin, whether Pullin, now demoted to the Rest side, plays hooker or not.

The choice of Geoffrey Richards at full back for the Rest implies that the selectors are willing not only to back class, but to take a worthwhile risk, for they still have Rossborough in the senior team. They have at last got Martin Cooper out of their minds as an England stand off, and they have plans for the future by their choice of Alan Wordsworth in the Rest side, as heir apparent to Alan Old, and by their selection of Neil Bennett as reserve.

Wordsworth is an exciting prospect, bristling with confidence and talent and all the better for a season with Cambridge University and a match for England under-23 against the Tongans, from which he should have acquired valuable experience. He may not be as accomplished an all-round kicker as Bennett, but he is catching up fast. He must be as elusive at close quarters, and quicker over the first few vital yards. He has that priceless gift of all the really good players in his position: he can turn on a sixpence.

Old, as the man in possession, clearly must be first choice in the selectors' minds for the Irish match, but in the area trial last Saturday his predilection for kicking for position from the set pieces kept his threequarter line on short commons and he never quite threaded his game into an authoritative whole. He may need to reassert his position on Saturday.

With a choice between Preece, Keith Smith, Evans and Warfield, England ought to finish up with a potent mix in the centre. One of their options could be to use Warfield's strength at inside centre, with one of the other three outside him. There is enough talent available, and a fresh enough breeze blowing in coaching attitudes, for Duckham to hope for a fruitful season. His defence at Headingley last Saturday, when he twice caught Alan Richards from behind, was happy evidence of his re-found appetite for the game.

There may not be more than four members of last season's successful England pack who presently can feel absolutely sure of their places. That is not to suggest that with a change here and there the eventual unit will not be even better. It looks as if Peter Wheeler is taking over from John Pullin as hooker.

"Stack" Stevens, with Colin White breathing down his neck, will be anxious to prove that he remains the country's best loose head. However the loose forwards eventually are sorted out, there is enough quality in the three positions for a formidable mix. But England could be in difficulty if anything should happen to Tony Neary. He is in a class on his own on the open side.

From all the full backs available it is noteworthy that the selectors have stood by the trusty Jorden as first replacement of the trial. Wyatt, of Bedford, is elevated to the reserves bench and is unlucky to have Duckham and Morley ahead of him in the left wing queue. The inclusion of Pringle, Raphael, Mantell, and Cheeseman (the last three named all being England Under-23 caps) is encouragement for up and coming players.

Raphael and Cheeseman did not play in the area trials, and nor did Ashton, the Orrell and Lancashire scrum half, who was reserve to Steve Smith for the North. The centre, Maxwell, has earned his place as a final trial replacement with his rugged running for the North at Headingley.

Squash rackets

Verow successfully comes through crisis

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

Peter Verow, aged 21, a medical student at St Mary's Hospital, who also happens to be a British squash rackets international, reached the semi-final round of the British amateur championship by beating Selwyn Machet, of South Africa, 9—5, 2—9, 9—2, 9—10, 9—1, in an hour and 13 minutes at Wembley last evening. Machet, seeded sixth, was the third South African seed to be dismissed by an unseeded opponent.

This was a sloppy and erratic match that the cynical might suggest was a good advertisement for the professional game. But there was some excuse for both players, particularly for the deficiencies of their footwork—which tended to lead to errors of technique. The ball of Verow's right foot is covered by a huge mass of broken tissue, the remnants of a burst blister. Machet has been playing throughout the tournament with damaged ligaments in his left foot. He has been having heat treatment and has had the ankle strapped during his matches.

All things considered Machet probably did well to justify his seeding by reaching the last eight. He comes from Johannesburg and this is only his second trip to Britain. Equally, Verow, who has never done as well before, has earned a good deal of credit by beating Atlas Khan (the champion's brother), Neven Barbaur (the New Zealand champion), Kim Bruce-Lockhart (the cottish No 1, himself a British international), and then Machet. Born at Barnard Castle, where he was also educated, Verow was twice Britain's junior champion.

Though the match was never a particularly attractive spectacle, it did at least have a thrilling crisis as a contest. This came in the fourth game. Machet did well to respond to adversity by gaining a 6—1 lead. At 8—7 he had a game ball. But Verow reasserted his authority and at 9—8 had a match point but was frustrated when a penalty was awarded against him. Another penalty point gave Machet that game. But in the fifth Verow quickly finished the job. He had a second match point at 8—1 but put a backhand out of court. At the same score he had a third match point and this time put a cross court backhand drop shot into the nick.

Machet had long been having trouble getting to Verow's drops and there was not much chance that he would reach that one.

This rather dreary match was in keeping with the general character of the first big tournament to be played at Wembley. The place has the austere and clinical ambience of some kind of squash factory. At Wembley much of the laughter seems to be taken out of the game. Nor have there been many spectators to build up any excitement.

The championship was poorly promoted in terms of advance publicity, no programmes have appeared, and the scheduling of matches in the early rounds was so flexible as to be haphazard. Much of this could charitably be dismissed as teething troubles. But Wembley has certainly not made an auspicious start as a national home for the British game.

The presence of that wonderfully gifted and deceptive player, Qamar Zaman, is some compensation for the many drab areas in the picture this tournament has presented. His victim last evening was Trevor Colyer, of New Zealand, whom he beat 9—3, 10—8, 9—0. Colyer is a good player and a game competitor. But there were times in this match when he clearly had little idea what Zaman was likely to get up to next—except that it would probably do his own morale and stamina no good at all. This was a charming demonstration of the game's artistic possibilities. Yet it never strayed far from the basic need to make an opponent keep covering a lot of court in a little time.

RESULTS: Quarter-final round: P. G. Verow beat S. M. Machet (SA), 9—5, 2—9, 9—2, 9—10, 9—1; Qamar Zaman (Pakistan) beat T. H. Colyer (NZ), 9—3, 10—8, 9—0; P. N. Ayton beat Mohammed Saleem (Pakistan), 9—3, 9—5, 9—7; Mohibullah Khan (Pakistan) beat N. Shewcross (Australia), 9—6, 9—1, 9—5.

Penalties decide for the first time

By Norman Creek

The annual public schools six-a-side football tournament took place yesterday at the National Westminster Bank's ground at Norbury. Once again it was a triumph of organization as the 32 schools—the ideal number—played in groups of four during the morning to decide which eight should enter the knock-out competitions for the Corinthian-Casuals Challenge Cup and the Plate in the afternoon.

The rules are simple: two points for a win, and one for a draw in the morning league games, and a straight knock-out in the afternoon, with corners deciding in the event of a draw.

Group G appeared to be the strongest of the eight, with Eton, Malvern, Repton and Winchester contending for a place in the finals. The pick of the northern schools — Bolton, Manchester, Queen Elizabeth's, Blackburn, and Bury—had avoided each other in the preliminary matches, and Lancashire played its customary prominent part.

The morning group matches provided few surprises. Millfield could score only one goal in their three games, while Bradfield were narrowly beaten by Bolton. Blackburn had a close game against Wolverhampton before they lost 3—2. Repton, Eton and Malvern had hard struggles in their group before finishing in that order.

The cup and plate competitions took place after lunch. Shrewsbury and Brentwood, who both won all three morning games, were soon eliminated, and it was left to Wolverhampton and Wellingborough to challenge Bolton and Blackburn in the two final matches. Repton defeated Brentwood by a single penalty goal, but Shrewsbury went down by 3—0 to Manchester.

Wellingborough took too much out of themselves when defeating Lancing, and although they struggled to a narrow semi-final win over John Lyon in the plate, they were no match for Blackburn in the final of that competition. That victory gave Blackburn the distinction of winning the cup twice and the plate twice in the past four years, a worthy reward for their consistency.

In the last match of a long day, two tired teams fought a goalless draw. Wild hit a post and then the crossbar for Bolton, but neither side could score. As each of them had forced one corner, penalties were taken for the first time in the history of the competition, and it was fitting that Bolton should score three to Wolverhampton's two.

So it was the Lancashire side whose captain received the cup from the secretary of the Football Association. Results:

CUP: Quarter-final round: Bolton 1, Kulme GS 0; Manchester GS 3, Shrewsbury O; Wolverhampton GS 1, Bury 0; Repton 1, Brentwood 0. Semi-final round: Bolton 2, Manchester 1 (Bolton won two corners); Wolverhampton 3, Repton 1. Final: Bolton beat Wolverhampton by three penalties to two.
PLATE: Final: Blackburn 4, Wellingborough 0.

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Court of Appeal

Dealers in Paris sugar market get injunction to stop payments

Tate & Lyle Ltd v London International Commodities Clearing House Ltd.

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roskill and Sir John Pennycuick.

Six dealers in the international sugar market were granted an interim injunction restraining the International Commodities Clearing House Ltd in London from making any payments to the detriment of the dealers in respect of their account and other dealings with their French counterpart, the Caisse de Liquidation des Affaires en Marchandises, of Paris, until further order.

The proceedings arose out of the position resulting from the closure of the Paris sugar market on December 2.

Mr L. J. Libbert for Tate & Lyle and Margulies Sugar Ltd; Mr Anthony Evans, QC, and Mr John Beveridge for ACLI International Commodity Services Ltd; Mr David Johnson for R. J. Rouse & Co Ltd, Commodity Analysis Ltd and L. M. Fischel & Co Ltd; Mr John Hobhouse, QC, and Mr Michael Dean for the International Commodities Clearing House Ltd.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the price of sugar, which had been rising, came down rapidly in the latter part of November. The present proceedings were the consequence.

There had been many transactions on the London and the Paris sugar markets, the majority of which were carried out through clearing houses. For instance, Tate & Lyle would be sellers of sugar for delivery three months ahead at a very high price. Those transactions would be made through brokers on the French or the English market. The contracts would be registered with the clearing houses on each side—in England the International Commodities Clearing House Ltd and in France the Caisse de Liquidation. The clearing houses guaranteed the due performance of the contracts for sale and purchase of sugar both as to delivery and as to payment.

The court had been told that on December 2 Tate & Lyle had 1,032 open contracts registered with the Caisse—all no doubt future sales arranged when the price was high; but by then prices to the French buyers had fallen greatly and there was a possibility of a great loss, so that the English sellers would want to insist on the high prices arranged and duly registered.

The affidavit evidence showed that on December 2 a Mr Nataf, a broker dealing in sugar futures on the Paris market, found himself in difficulties and reported that to the Caisse. The Caisse apparently felt they would not be able to meet their own obligations if the futures sugar market remained open. So the president of the Caisse approached the Commission de Direction, which approached the technical committee and requested them to endorse the closure of the French sugar market.

The technical committee refused; but the Commission de Direction, the management committee of the Paris sugar market, closed the market on that day.

That was a serious matter. Under article 22 of the Regulations of the International White Sugar Market (of the Bourse de Commerce de Paris) the price should have been fixed forthwith or at the latest by the morning of the next day.

The article said that "If it be officially decided to suspend dealings on the Paris international white sugar market, particularly consequent upon inter alia general mobilization, war, or causes of force majeure, the technical committee should fix the levels at which current obligations shall be compulsorily rescinded and automatically indemnified. This it must do forthwith and, in any event, at the latest on the next day after the day of the suspensions before 10 am".

So when the market was closed it was for the technical committee to fix the levels at which contracts were to be closed and accounts settled. Under article 22 "the rate for compensation shall be the average values ruling the last 20 market days of the Bourse preceding the official suspension of trading."

So if the market was closed dealings would be settled on the average of the last 20 market days; if there was no closure within the clause they would be dealt with at the latest prices on December 2.

If Tate & Lyle's 1,032 open contracts were to be treated as closed at the prices ruling on December 2 there would be a credit due to them of £2,700,000; but if such sales had to be treated at the average price established under article 22 there would be a debit due from Tate & Lyle of £4,200,000. According to whether or not article 22 applied the difference would be nearly £7m.

Obviously that caused much trouble and controversy, especially as the technical committee had not taken part in the closure and had indeed objected to it. The committee never assessed the price at all, either on the day of the closure or the next day before 10 am.

On December 11 the Caisse and Mr Nataf made an application to the Tribunal de Commerce de la Seine, to which the technical committee were made defendants. Under article 26 the tribunal had exclusive jurisdiction over disputes arising from a transaction negotiated on the Paris international white sugar market.

Many parties came before the president of the tribunal on that application. He was a layman not qualified in law, and the court had been told in one affidavit that no accurate written record of what the president had said was available to anybody, but the inference was that he ruled on the 20-day average. The affidavit said: "The confusion on the occasion of the second application was quite remarkable. A great number of people chose to talk at once, including the president . . . who frequently could not be heard. Various people present tried to make notes of the president's decision when he gave it, but so far as I know no one has been able to assemble an accurate version of it, although I am advised that it is capable of taking immediate effect."

Trouble then arose with the clearing house because the London house felt they had obligations as between themselves and the French Caisse which they were bound to honour. The Caisse were in credit as against the English clearing house and might debit them with the sums said to be owing on the 20-day average basis, for the clearing houses operated between one another, taking full responsibility for fulfilment of contracts, payment of margins and profits, and looked to their clients and dealers on guarantees to be indemnified against all those obligations.

Of course, the clients in England, the plaintiffs in the proceedings and others also, had been anxious. They applied to the Commercial Court for an injunction to restrain the English clearing house from making payments in account or otherwise to the Caisse until the confused situation was cleared up in some way or other by the French courts.

One reason why that was done was that there was much room for argument as to whether the 20-day figure and the ruling of the tribunal president had binding effect. There was evidence that it was only interlocutory and might not be effective at once. A stay might operate subject to an appeal being lodged, and the like. So until the confusion was cleared up the English clients wanted that order.

Mr Justice Donaldson heard the matter yesterday and directed that the English clearing house give an undertaking that they would not make any payments and so forth to the prejudice of the plaintiffs "save as required by French law". The point had been taken before him, as also before their Lordships, that the tribunal president might be right and should be regarded as right or at least accepted and that therefore there should be that reservation in the order to enable the English clearing house to honour its undertaking to the Caisse if French law so required. For it appeared that it must be the tribunals and courts of France and not the English courts which must decide the effect of article 22 and whether it had been properly operated, whether it was valid and how far it should apply. His Lordship could see serious arguments on whether the ruling was right or wrong.

On the appeal, Mr Hobhouse, for the clearing house, still supported a reservation of the kind the judge had made. But it was both unnecessary and undesirable. English traders dealing with the English clearing house were entitled to ask the court that the position should be preserved intact and nothing done to their prejudice in such a controversial situation. If their views were correct £2,700,000 would be owing to Tate & Lyle; and if the English clearing house paid or settled an account with the Caisse they might not see that money at all—indeed they might be debited with over £4m, which might go against a guarantee which Lloyds Bank had given. That was an instance of the great damage which would occur for the English dealers if the English clearing house paid on the ruling of the tribunal president. As the ruling was confused, only interlocutory, and subject to appeal, without a written record of it, it seemed that the English dealers were entitled to have the position preserved.

His Lordship would therefore allow the appeal and grant an interim injunction that the defendants their servants and agents in respect of their account and other dealings with the Caisse de Liquidation be restrained until further order from making any

Continued in next column

Court of Appeal

Sentencing guidance in homosexual cases

Regina v Willis

Before Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Mocatta and Mr Justice Cantley

Sentencing guidance to judges in homosexual cases was given by the Court of Appeal when it gave reasons for dismissing an appeal by Peter Charles Willis, aged 24, against sentences totalling five years' imprisonment passed on him at Canterbury Crown Court (Judge Streeter). He had pleaded guilty to buggery with a boy aged eight (for which he was sentenced to five years) and indecent assault on a boy aged nine (three years concurrently). Seven other offences of indecent assault on small boys were taken into consideration.

Mr S. A. Hockman for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the case presented the judge with a difficult sentencing problem. The single judge, giving leave to appeal, had suggested that the court might give guidance. Cases, however, differed widely in their facts and the court did not desire to put judges into sentencing strait jackets.

One difficulty which judges had in sentencing offenders like the appellant was their own reactions of revulsion to what the accused had been proved to have done. Right-thinking members of the public had the same reactions and expected judges in their sentences to reflect public abhorrence of the graver kinds of criminal homosexual acts.

There was a widely held opinion that homosexual offences involving boys led to the corruption of the boys and caused them severe emotional damage. The Sexual Offences Act, 1967, provided that, subject to exceptions, a homosexual act in private should not be an offence, but the most important exception related to participating persons who had not attained 21. That reflected Parliament's desire to protect the young, even from themselves.

Although punishments prescribed in the Sexual Offences Act 1956, were reduced in the 1967 Act, life imprisonment was retained for buggery with a boy under 16. It followed that judges should always regard buggery with boys under 16 as a serious offence, and the younger the boy the more serious the offence. It would seem inappropriate in a case in which there were no strong mitigating factors to pass a sentence which did not result in immediate loss of liberty, or with a loss of liberty for only a few months or a year or so.

In the court's judgment the sentencing bracket for offences which had neither aggravating nor mitigating factors was from three to five years, and the place in the brackets depended on age, intelligence and education. However, few offences had neither aggravating nor mitigating factors. Many had both and a judge had to weigh what aggravated against what mitigated.

The main aggravating factors—the list was not all-embracing or set out in order of importance—were: (1) physical injury to the boy; (2) emotional and psychological damage; (3) moral corruption; (4) abuse of authority and trust. The main mitigating factors were: (1) mental imbalance; (2) personality disorders; (3) emotional stress. Much the same approach was appropriate in cases of indecent assault on boys, but it had to be remembered that in those cases it was not the label of indecent assault which was important but the nature of the act. Sentences should reflect the seriousness of the act constituting the indecent assault.

When the facts of the appellant's case were considered against the general principles, both aggravating and mitigating factors were found. When the danger to small boys was balanced against the mitigating factors the result indicated that the appropriate sentence was one which was likely to keep the appellant out of trouble for a fairly long period and give him enough time to mature mentally, if ever he was going to do so. The sentences passed upon him achieved that result.

Solicitors: Registrar of Criminal Appeals.

VAT appeal for Lords

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd

The Divisional Court (the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Thompson and Mr Justice Mais) granted a certificate of "leapfrog" appeal to the House of Lords under section 12(3)(a) of the Administration of Justice Act 1969, from the decision that television rental companies must pay VAT on payments made under hiring agreements even though the agreements were made before VAT came into existence (The Times, December 6).

Mr George Graham, QC, applying for the certificate, said that tens of millions of pounds could be concerned, and telephone rentals might be involved, although the point was transient and the position had been clarified by subsequent legislation.

Continued from preceding column

payment, whether by set off or acceptance of a debit entry or otherwise howsoever, to the detriment of the plaintiffs.

It should be made quite clear that it was "until further order", for if the matter should become clear in France and a final decision given in France an application could be made immediately to the Commercial judge so that no injury would be done to anyone.

LORD JUSTICE ROSKILL, concurring, said that there were millions of pounds involved in the dispute, and if those huge sums were now paid over by the defendants at the ultimate cost of the plaintiffs it might be that, as a result of legal proceedings still to take place in France or elsewhere, no sums would be found to be payable, or, alternatively, some lesser sum than those presently involved; and doubts must arise whether moneys now paid would be recovered, having regard to the current chaotic condition of the Paris sugar market.

Sir John Pennycuick agreed.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Keene, Marsland; Lovell, White & King; Thomas Cooper & Stibbard; Coward Chance.

Skiing

Second leg victory means success for Stenmark

Madonna di Campiglio, Dec 17.—Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, came from behind to win the World Cup special slalom event here with a dazzling second leg performance that made him a second faster than anyone else. The 18-year-old, who has leapt to the front of World Cup skiing this season, was 23rd after the first leg. Attacking all the way, but keeping supremely cool, he swooped down the 71-gate second leg course in the amazingly fast time of 56.12sec for a total of 1min 51.02sec.

"I am satisfied", he said, "The course was more difficult than in the first leg when I made a lot of mistakes. I skied well this time, taking every possible risk because I had nothing to lose."

Second was the Italian, Paolo de Chiesa, in 1min 51.21sec with respective leg times of 53.43sec and 57.78sec over the course with a vertical drop of 205 metres. "I was too cautious the second time", de Chiesa said, "but I thought I could win anyway."

Another Italian, Fausto Radici, was third. His fast second leg time of 57.32sec gave him a total of 1min 51.34sec.

SPECIAL SLALOM: 1, I. Stenmark (Sweden), 56.12sec, 51.90, 1min 51.02sec; 2, P. de Chiesa (Italy), 53.43, 57.78, 1.51.21; 3, F. Radici (Italy), 54.02, 57.32, 1.51.34; 4, C. Bruce (US), 53.21, 58.91, 1.52.12; 5, O. Berger (WG), 53.75, 58.87, 1.52.50; 6, W. Frommelt (Liechtenstein), 55.64, 58.70, 1.54.34.
WORLD CUP PLACINGS: 1, F. Klammer (Austria), 58 pts; 2, Stenmark, 45; 3, W. Grissmann (Austria), 35; 4, P. Gros (Italy), 35; 5, de Chiesa, 22; 6, H. Plank (Italy), 20.—Reuter.

From a Special Correspondent
Davos, Dec 17

Oxford's hopes of a comeback against the strong Cambridge team that had been victorious in the annual skiing match for the past two years, were today severely shaken in the giant slalom which Cambridge won by 26.4 seconds in the team aggregate. Colin Robertson, the captain, and Douglas Low did full justice to the reputation they had earned as the dynamic strength of Cambridge skiing, by taking first and second places respectively with times of 1min 43.1sec and 1:44.3. In third place, with a time of 1:45.5, was Richard Ayles, who represents Oxford's main hope of a challenge to Cambridge's individual supremacy.

Steady performances from Nicholas Morris and Andrew Reicher enabled Cambridge to take four out of the first six places and showed that Cambridge have a breadth of talent as impressive as its depth. All four of the Cambridge skiers, whose times counted in the aggregate were Blues and such experience in the team was doubtless of great value under today's awkward racing conditions.

GIANT SLALOM: 1, C. J. Robertson (Cambridge, Magdalene), 1min 43.1sec; 2, D. R. D. Low (Cambridge, Magdalene), 1:44.3; 3, R. W. C. Ayles (Oxford, Lincoln), 1:45.5; 4, C. N. Morris (Cambridge, King's), 1:50.0; 5, R. J. R. Seligman (Oxford, Trinity), 1:51.2; 6, A. W. M. Reicher (Cambridge, Caius), 1:55.8.

Hockey

Army team for today's match

The following hockey players have been selected to represent the Army against London University at Motspur Park today.

Captain V. T. M. Smith (RA, captain), 2nd Lieut F. C. Moss (Staffordshire Regt), Capt R. B. P. Goodwin (Royal Green Jackets), Capt P. R. M. Whittington (Royal Scots), Cpl Chandrakumar Rai (Gurkha Regt), Capt P. J. Sandy (RE), Lieut C. C. N. Jarrett-Kerr (RE), Lieut A. R. C. de C. Stewart (13/18 Hussars), Lieut M. A. Boulter (RAEC), Lieut P. C. Marsh (RE), Lieut E. B. Smiley (5th Dragoon Guards), Capt G. T. Dewar (Royal Hampshire Regt), Sgt A. J. Stamp (RE).

Rhyl have been drawn at home to Llandudno in the third round of the Welsh cup to be played on January 12. The draw:

Northop Hall v Penrhyn; Rhyl v Llandudno; Newtown or Buckley v Bangor City; Newport v Penarth; Bridgend v Cardiff, Whitchurch v Llanishen.

Snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather — °C
SWITZERLAND				
Adelboden	30	100	Poor	Snow 4
Andermatt	100	150	Good	Cloud 1
Arosa	60	400	Good	Cloud 0
Braunwald	130	160	Good	Cloud 4
Champéry	150	200	Poor	Rain 1
Chateau d'Oex	50	100	Good	Cloud 3
Crans	60	180	Good	Snow 0
Davos	90	180	Good	Cloud 4
Engelberg	50	200	Fair	Snow 1
Flims	50	200	Good	Fog 1
Grindelwald	30	160	Good	Rain 2
Gstaad	40	200	Good	Cloud 3
Kandersteg	30	150	Good	Cloud 2
Lenk	30	150	Good	Rain 1
Lenzerheid	80	160	Good	Cloud 4
Leysin	20	200	Good	Fog 1
Mürren	120	150	Good	Cloud 2
Pontresina	40	150	Good	Cloud 2
Saanenmoser	70	150	Good	Cloud 0
Saas-Fee	60	150	Good	Snow 0
St Moritz	75	85	Good	Cloud 0
Savognin	90	150	Good	Cloud 0
Verbier	35	200	Good	Cloud 0
Villars	20	120	Good	Rain 1
Wengen	40	150	Good	Cloud 1
Wildhaus	50	180	Good	Rain 1
Zermatt	90	140	Good	Snow 0

PARLIAMENT, December 17, 1974

Mr Stonehouse neither Czech spy nor CIA agent: time for family to be allowed privacy

House of Commons

MR HAROLD WILSON, Prime Minister (Huyton, Lab), said in a statement: Publicity has recently been given to allegations that Mr John Stonehouse (Walsall, North, Lab) was spying for the Czechoslovak intelligence service at the time he held ministerial office. These allegations were first made by a Czechoslovak defector in 1969.

With my approval, the security service investigated these allegations fully at the time. In the course of their inquiries they interviewed the defector, and they questioned Mr Stonehouse about his contacts.

Following their investigations the security service advised me at that time that there was no evidence to support the allegations.

I am today advised again that no evidence to support the allegations has come to light at any time since then.

There is no truth whatever in reports that Mr Stonehouse was being kept under investigation or surveillance by the security service at the time of his disappearance.

MR HEATH, Leader of the Opposition (Bexley, Sidcup, C)—To make a statement of this kind is an unusual procedure. (Labour MPs: "Necessary.") From time to time there are press stories about intelligence activities and it has been a firmly held rule in the past that Prime Ministers and members of the Government do not make statements about allegations of this kind for the sound reason that it opens up a situation where all sorts of serious allegations appear in the press to which credence is given if they are not denied in Parliament.

I hope the Prime Minister will assure the House that this is not to be taken as a precedent—that when allegations are made in the press of a security kind, a statement has immediately to be made in the House.

Mr Wilson has dealt with one allegation, but there are others on which he has not touched and it still leaves those allegations open for the press to emphasize in stories which are circulating about Mr Stonehouse.

I hope further consideration will be given to this matter. As he raised it, can he tell us what inquiries have been made by the Government about the disappearance of Mr Stonehouse?

MR WILSON—I agree to this extent—and this extent only—that it is a difficult problem for anyone holding the responsibilities he and I have both held to know when to make statements on these matters and when not.

In Mr Heath's case it caused considerable surprise when he volunteered a statement that Philby was the third man on that famous occasion. I did not criticize him for saying it because he was obviously speaking with a full sense of responsibility.

In this case there has been a serious press campaign—(Labour MPs: "Scurrilous")—based on stories going back to 1969 when I had responsibility in these matters. I had them fully investigated at the time and there was nothing in them.

One has always to face the possibility that when defectors come out of the country where they have been and find their capital diminished—their intellectual capital of course—they try to revive their memories on these matters.

However, nothing has been said this week which was not said in 1969 when the most rigorous inquiries were made.

Not only was it proved then that Mr Stonehouse had not been a Czechoslovak spy—indeed that was not the suggestion—but that he was not in any sense a security risk.

It is only fair and right to Mr Stonehouse, since so many newspapers have had top front page headlines on this matter, for me to state what I know and to say that I have been into it.

It does not follow that I shall comment in all future cases. It is a matter for discretion and it is very difficult.

I have no information about the disappearance. That is being investigated by the American police authorities and they are, of course, in touch with ours. I have no information. I only wish I had, but I have not.

Perhaps Mr Heath had in mind another issue which has been printed in the public press with great confidence and certainty, that Mr Stonehouse was an agent of the CIA. He was not an agent of the CIA.

Distress

MR MOLLOY (Ealing, North, Lab)—Notwithstanding the comments of the Leader of the Opposition, the majority of MPs, British people and the family and children of John Stonehouse will be grateful to him for making the statement.

The media should respond to his statement in that tarnishing rumours and innuendoes should cease. All the Stonehouse family should now be released from the distressing pressures causing unnecessary pain and anguish to them.

MR WILSON—I agree with Mr Molloy. One reason I made the statement was because the publicity was not put in the form of innuendo but as statements of alleged fact and I thought it right in the interests, especially, of the family that this should be said. It is causing great distress to them.

I understand that his mother has had a serious heart attack during the anxiety and pressure.

I think now that the press in question should, rather than hounding them in their homes, and asking children, domestic staff and everybody else the most farfetched questions about matters which at the end of the day have to be settled by the police authorities in another country, I think it is time they be given a little decent privacy and understanding and some reticence be shown by the press. (Labour cheers.)

If it is any help that I have given this statement, I hope, considering the yards of newsprint devoted to the lie I have disproved, that they will use newsprint to print the truth in place of the lie.

Reducing conjecture

MR THORPE (North Devon, L)—We are grateful that Mr Wilson has made this statement. The security procedures to which he alluded are well established and generally accepted in all parts of the House. If Mr Stonehouse were here, he would be in a position to choose whether it was right to make a personal statement or to take other advice.

As he is not here, when allegations of this sort are made against him, if any colleague, including a member of the Government, is able to rebut them, it is generally welcome out of loyalty to that colleague.

While there are still matters of grave doubt which have to be resolved, the less speculative conjecture there is, the better.

MR WILSON—I am most grateful to Mr Thorpe. He is expressing the views of the whole House in this matter. Another point he recognized from what he said was the allegation not added to by any evidence.

I was satisfied by the thorough investigations in which Mr Stonehouse gave all possible help that there was no truth in those allegations. It is obvious to all that had there been a scintilla of evidence, he would not have remained a member of the Government.

Implications of birth rate on teacher training

MR GUY BARNETT (Greenwich, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science for a statement about his policy on the size of classes in primary and secondary schools.

MR PRENTICE—My aim is to achieve as soon as economic circumstances allow a supply of teachers sufficient to ensure that no class in a maintained primary or secondary school need exceed 30.

MR BARNETT—Will it be his policy to outlaw the class of over 30 children? There are areas of our primary and secondary schools where there is a need for classes of considerably less than 30. I think particularly of children with educational disadvantages, children with linguistic and language difficulties, who need to be taught in much smaller groups.

In the plans he is bringing forward for the future of teacher training and supply, is he bearing this factor fully in mind?

MR PRENTICE—Yes, I can give that assurance. I have referred to the Advisory Council on the Supply and Training of Teachers the implications of the recent birthrate projections so that we may review our plans for entry into the colleges in the years ahead.

These plans will be consistent with an improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio, including arriving at a situation within a few years where I hope there will be no classes over 30 and much smaller classes in the kind of circumstances he described.

MR SHELTON (Lambeth, Streatham, C)—Last April he agreed with the figure of 510,000, the target set by Mrs Thatcher for 1980-81. What figure does he now have in mind for 1980-81?

MR PRENTICE—I did accept the figure of 510,000. It is now clear that we can reach the objectives to which I have been referring with a rather smaller figure. Precisely what the figure will be will have to be announced after the consultations with the Advisory Council.

When the 1972 White Paper was written it was assumed that the school population by 1980-81 would be 9,600,000. On the latest projections it will be 8,700,000, almost one million children fewer than was then supposed would be the case.

MR HAMPSON (Ripon, C)—How can he justify his policies with regard to colleges of education, rushing them into mergers and amalgamations, giving them the chop and now holding a new axe over their head by threatening to cut teacher-training targets?

The morale of these colleges and their staffs is being hit. Would it not be better to stick to the 510,000 target rather than urging expenditure on the reorganization of secondary education?

MR PRENTICE—He had better be careful to make clear that he is not campaigning for large-scale teacher unemployment. The colleges face uncertainties in the period of reorganization. This is difficult for them, but no one can say they are being rushed into mergers.

Both under the previous and present administrations a great deal of time and care has been taken to discuss with them and with local authorities and others concerned what would be the right pattern for higher education outside the university sector, including the colleges of education in each locality.

New tax rules about domicile not to apply to gifts made before Finance Bill was published

MR JOEL BARNET, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Heywood and Royton, Lab), moving the second reading of the Finance Bill, said the spring Finance Bill this year made a start on the construction of a fair and just tax system. (Conservative protests.) He had never been more convinced that without such a system they could not hope to achieve the unity so desperately needed at this time of crisis. The present Finance Bill continued the tradition of the previous one.

Fairness had been a consistent theme of the Government. They had sought to give a fair deal to pensioners and to families with children. They had taken the first steps towards a fair distribution of income and wealth. They were providing for the nation as a whole to receive a fair share of profits from the North Sea and they were doing their utmost along with the TUC to avoid the greatest unfairness of all—mass unemployment.

The Bill was a substantial one, much longer than any autumn Finance Bill in recent memory. The main reason was the inclusion of a major and long overdue tax reform, the capital transfer tax.

Too easily avoided

The purpose of the capital transfer tax was to remedy the deficiencies in the present estate duty by ensuring that there was an effective tax on wealth. Estate duty had been too easily avoided in the past.

The duty had been avoided altogether on estates given away more than seven years before the donor's death. The wealthy and well advised had been able to put their wealth beyond the reach of the duty for generations, up to 80 years or more, by putting it in discretionary trusts.

No fairminded person could say it was fair that such a situation should persist. Estate duty was unfair and by its inadequacy it had contributed to the other and wider inequality of failing to ensure that the most wealthy had made a proper contribution to the nation's revenue.

Under a programme designed to achieve a major distribution of wealth a system must be found which reversed these defects. The new tax would apply, subject to certain exemptions, to all transfers of wealth whether made by way of gift during a person's lifetime or on death.

A number of exemptions from the charge were set out in the Bill. He hoped the scope of the reliefs would demonstrate the Government were prepared to be flexible in applying the broad principles of the tax and ensure it would not bear too onerously on large sections of the community. The most important was the exemption for gifts between husband and wife.

The broad effect of the treatment proposed for gifts to charities and national heritage bodies at death was to give relief on the same scale as at present applied under estate duty.

Works of art

The question of how works of art remaining in private hands should be treated under capital transfer tax was one which the Government would wish to consider in the light of the decision they took about wealth tax on works of art when they had the benefit of the select committee's advice.

Meanwhile (he said) we have decided to continue the existing estate duty exemption for works of art and other objects of a qualifying standard which remain in private hands, but so as to apply only to transfers of qualifying objects on death.

The exemption will be conditional, as under estate duty, on the giving of certain undertakings—for example not to send the object out of the country—and will be lost on a sale or a breach of the undertaking.

The Government had decided to ease the burden which would fall on transfers of agricultural land owned and farmed by fulltime working farmers. Relief was given where the transferor qualified as a person wholly or mainly engaged in agriculture as a farmer or farmworker, or as a student, in five of the seven preceding years.

If more than threequarters of the earned income in those years was obtained from farming the qualification was automatic.

The relief would apply in respect of land, including farmhouses and buildings occupied for farming, by the transferor for at least two years before the transfer. The relief given would take the form of a reduction of the agricultural market value of the property to 20 times its gross rental value. But any element of development value in the land would be taxable in full.

Amendments

Preparation of the capital transfer tax legislation had been a mammoth task involving the framing of a complete new code covering both lifetime transfers and transfers on death to replace the 80-year-old estate duty. As a result of difficulties in framing the tax there were certain matters which there was insufficient time to deal with in the Bill as published.

It was intended to bring forward suitable amendments at committee stage. The intention was to introduce provisions to prevent avoidance by making gifts through the medium of close companies, including transactions involving alterations in the rights attaching to different classes of shares.

It was intended to provide relief from the charges on settled property for trusts set up for the benefit of employees, for example, benevolent funds held under discretionary trusts and trusts intended to give effect to profit sharing schemes, funds held on discretionary trusts by a number of professional bodies and a few quasi-professional ones, designed to indemnify customers and clients against losses due to default by their members, for example, Lloyd's Central Fund and the Law Society Compensation Fund.

A recent letter to *The Times* pointed out that the Government's proposals to treat people in certain circumstances as domiciled in the United Kingdom could involve the taxation of gifts of overseas pro erty made between March 26 a the publication of the Bill by pe ple whose legal domicile w abroad.

This would be contrary to t undertaking he gave in the spri Budget debate about gifts ma before a date to be fixed in th Bill.

I undertook (he said) that a g made in that period would exempt from the new tax t would not be chargeable to est duty if the donor died on the d after making the gift.

We intend to honour that und taking and we shall bring forwa an amendment to Clause 40 ensure that the new rules ab domicile do not apply to gi made before December 10, 19 when the Bill was published.

Fundamental changes

His understanding was that t crucial new tax would be oppos by Conservative MPs. (Conser tive cheers.) He did not compl about that. Labour MPs wo appreciate that it introduced a n and for Labour a fundamen change for the good in t country's capital taxes. (Labo cheers.)

Extra staff would be needed deal with the work on the capi transfer tax, with the lowering the threshold for the investm income surcharge and on smaller scale, with the provisio relating to life assurance relief the relief for increase in sto values.

It was estimated that the Inla Revenue would need one additional staff for these purpo in the current year and a furt 160 in 1975-76. Customs and Exc would not need any extra staff administer the proposals in Bill.

The Government were det mined to proceed with the task building a fairer society. Unl they did this they could not exp the people to unite to deal w economic problems. The need fairness was central to all th policies and in particular to t Bill. (Labour cheers.)

Companies helped to survive but not to invest

MRS MARGARET THATCHER, Opposition spokesman on economic affairs (Barnet, Finchley, C), said the Chancellor, by putting extra penalties on saving, was aiming at a spendthrift society. He favoured the spender and penalized the saver. The Bill would have a devastating effect on many charities.

The Finance Bill must be judged on how it provided for the problems of today. The rate of inflation was accelerating. Last December the annual rate of increase was 10.6 per cent, last March it was 13.5 per cent, and this December it was 18.3 per cent. Next year rates of 25 per cent were forecast.

Everyone had not grasped fully what these rates would mean for society and institutions if they continued. She wished the signs were better that the Government really intended to deal with inflation. The danger of inflation at this rate was that it would lead to massive unemployment.

The prime objective of the Chancellor should be to deal with the accelerating rate of inflation.

The immediate problem was to agree on a new accounting system which would show what the true profit was and establishing a proper basis for assessing future need and actions. The immediate problem was that more companies were short of cash to meet their commitments and were having to lay off workers although the position on paper for profits still looked reasonable. For the Chancellor to have done nothing would have meant a large scale loss of jobs and it was that rather than a conversion to the private enterprise system that led him to take the action he did.

Most people doubted whether Mr Healey had done enough.

By the action the Chancellor had taken, he had enabled a number of companies to survive when they might otherwise have become insolvent, but he had not restored their capacity to invest.

If it was important to invest more, it was important to save more and important that the Chancellor did everything in his power to encourage savings on a considerable scale. Massive reequipment of industry was not likely to be obtained unless those who put their money in did so with money that had retained its value, earned a reasonable return whether by interest or dividend and they were able to keep enough after tax to make saving preferable to spending.

Those conditions were not being met at the moment. Savings were not retaining their value. Sooner or later the Chancellor would have to deal with that problem.

The main provision of the Bill on savings income was a new impost on this year's savings, and to levy a higher rate of tax on savings income when it exceeded £1,000 a year was highly vindictive. It would put in difficulty many people who had no pension provision, but who had to provide for their future by building up assets and then living off income.

There were already substantial taxes on capital, and a capital transfer tax did not redistribute wealth, nor did wealth tax. They concentrated wealth in the hands of the Government. That was the opposite of redistribution.

If they wanted to distribute, rather than concentrate, a form of tax on the donee would be better, not a tax on the accumulated gifts of the donor.

It was said that other countries had a capital tax and that it was all right for Britain to have one, but that must be considered in the light of all capital taxes here and overseas. Britain was not low in the league of capital taxes, but very high indeed. They did not need extra taxes.

One of the peculiarly socialist features of the tax was that children were treated no better than strangers, with the one exception of a gift upon marriage. In many other countries a lower rate was charged for gifts to family than to strangers.

The Government did not want children to benefit from the efforts of their parents.

Although there was rampant inflation, no provision had been made for indexation.

The tax would become a prevention of gifts tax. Much land and many companies would remain in the hands of the older generation because they would not make gifts because of the tax and some companies and farms would remain for far too long with the older members of a family when it would be better for management to pass them on to the younger generation.

The capital gains and transfer taxes would in many cases lead to much higher rates being payable than under the estates duty.

The effect on agriculture would be devastating. In many cases farmers would have to sell land in order to be able to pass some to the family.

The old estate duty provisions were much better for the health of farming and were therefore better for food production.

The only rational conclusion from the Bill was that the Chancellor and his friends were out to destroy the small businessman. Who would buy, other than the state? The nation would be living on its seed corn, a sure remedy for calamity.

The Conservatives would fight for small businesses playing their valuable part in the national life.

The Bill's provisions for charities were mean and would put some in difficulties. They would severely affect the setting up of new charities and trusts.

The Chancellor could have produced a recipe for recovery. The potential was there; the savings were there; the ability was there but there was a doubt whether the Government wanted a flourishing independent private enterprise sector.

It was not enough to say that he did. The Chancellor's actions must prove that he did. Until then confidence would not be restored and he could only offer a recipe for decline.

MISS MARGARET JACKSON (Lincoln, Lab) said the capital transfer tax would bring an improvement in the quality and distribution of wealth. She welcomed a tax which would bear on the wealthy who were at present not carrying anything like a fair share of the tax burden.

MR WILLIAM CLARKE (Croydon, South, C) said businessmen were petrified what the Government, under the Chancellor, were going to do. The budget had been one of envy. The antagonism towards capitalism in all its facets was one of the factors in the main responsible for the low ebb in which the economy found itself.

The capital gains tax should be phased out. The Government should do more to help private enterprise.

There are (he said) many people in our society who are not interested in our way of life. Their one object is to overthrow the capitalist system. The Chancellor in doing his tight-rope act between these two sections in his party is damaging the economy.

This Budget did nothing to help business. There were a few sops here and there, but behind it was the iron fist against capitalism and the small businessman. The need was for confidence, not con trickery. That was why he hoped the Bill would be rejected.

MR POWELL (South Down, UUUC) said they were in a perilous condition and the nature of that condition was their instability. What was urgently necessary was that this country should regain control of its own economic a monetary future, that they sho regain the ability to stand on th own feet.

When inflation was running at per cent, or whatever it might at the moment. In any comb whatsoever, success in educi the rate of inflation, however was done, must of necessity res in the emergence of a substant level of unemployment. That w in the nature of things or t simple reason that the decisio which, if the rate fell from 18 t per cent, would have that con quence had already been taken.

The Government and the Ch cellor had to ask, and had no ri to receive in doing what everybo knew was their duty, the suppo of the House and through it of country when the inevitable s effects of success in dominat inflation emerged.

For too often (he said) wh that moment came and when s cess was available to us, then could have regained our s respect, time and again when spectre appeared people had been prepared—I think it there that the fault lay—to face It is from this debate and t which follows it tomorrow that Chancellor ought to be given merely advice and exhortation the promise of support if he d what is necessary.

MR SEDGEMORE (Luton W Lab) said the Labour movem would expect the Chancellor hold to the commitment of employment. The Chancellor defended his last budget on basis that whatever unemployme resulted from the demand mana ment policy of his three budgets had staved off unemployme which might result from alleged liquidity and profits cr in British industry. Even assum he was right over that, it did explain why he told the Hous few months ago he would ret the economy and had now es up by deflating the economy.

An Opposition amendm describing Finance Bill provisi "as inadequate, and in so respects damaging", was rejec by 312 votes to 269—Governm majority 43.

The Bill was read a second ti by 303 votes to 13—Governm majority 290.

Private Bills

The Port Tyne (North Shie Fish Harbour) Bill, the River W Barrage Bill, and the Crouch H bour Bill were read the third ti

No clear solutions to school transport

MR STANLEY (Tonbridge and Malling, C) asked if the Secretary of State for Education and Science had completed his review of policy on concessionary bus fares for schoolchildren.

MR ARMSTRONG, Under Secretary (Durham, North-West, Lab)—The Secretary of State's review of the arrangements for schoolchildren is being limited to the provision of free or assisted transport under the Education Act, 1944. The question of concessionary fares, in the sense of lower fares for children not in receipt of free or assisted school transport, is a matter for the Secretary of State for Environment.

All the local authority associations have now submitted views on the recommendations made by the working party on school transport. The Secretary of State will urgently consider the working party's report in consultation with those of his colleagues whose responsibilities are concerned.

MR STANLEY—This is a disappointing reply in view of the undertaking to try to produce a statement of Government policy by the Christmas recess. Will he hasten the review in the light of concern about the inflexibility of the present system of concessionary bus fares and the considerable financial hardship it is placing on the lowest income families who live just outside the two and three miles limit?

MR ARMSTRONG—We had hoped to come to a conclusion before the Christmas recess. An analysis of the replies we have had confirms that there are no clear and satisfactory solutions to this difficult and almost intractable problem. I assure him we are giving it the most urgent consideration.

Since the limits were imposed (he added) there have been changes that make them out of date. We are taking that into consideration in our urgent review.

Disturbing shortage of science students

MR WINTERTON (Macclesfield, C) asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what were the trends in the number of undergraduates entering universities in Britain.

MR PRENTICE (Newham, North-East, Lab)—The number of undergraduates entering universities in Britain increased from 52,000 in 1965-66 to 65,000 in 1971-72, and has since risen to a provisional total of 71,000 in the current academic year 1974-75.

The average annual rates of increase represented by these figures are 3.4 per cent over the whole period and 2.8 per cent for the last three years. In the latest year the increase is 5.2 per cent, due partly to demographic reasons and partly to an increase in overseas students.

MR WINTERTON—What information has he about the lowering standard of entry to university? Would he comment about the relevance of the Robbins principle and about the NUS proposal that the hard-pressed taxpayers and ratepayers should meet 100 per cent of the subscription to that union?

MR PRENTICE—I do not accept that there has been a lowering of standard of entry. There have been some false reports about this in relation to certain universities, which have been denied. The figures I have given are broadly consistent with the Robbins principle. I think we are following it through in practice.

On the NUS point, my initial reaction is sceptical but I would like to hear more details.

MR HAMPSON (Ripon, C)—I hope he will admit that the target which the last Conservative Government set was also within the Robbins principle.

Will he confirm there is a decline in the number of entrants to universities in the sciences? Is it true that there are 20,000 empty places in science departments of universities? Science lecturers are concerned that they are having to take students of lower standard than they used to.

Will he set up an inquiry to see what is happening and why the expectations of the 1960s are not being met, and to establish what Government action is needed to make sure that we get more science and engineering graduates for the needs of British industry?

MR PRENTICE—This is a complex matter. It is difficult to know precisely what the likely real demand in Robbins terms will be in the 1980s, but 640,000 is the best estimate we can make on present evidence.

Failure to take up science places is disturbing. I am not sure that we need an inquiry because we know a great deal about it, and we must do all we can to encourage good applicants for these places.

MR RIFKIND (Edinburgh, Pentlands, C) asked whether the Secretary of State was satisfied with the number of universities and the number of places for students at universities.

Inflationary pressures (he said) are causing unprecedented difficulties for the universities in fulfilling present requirements. There is becoming a strong argument for suspension of the university expansion programme to ensure they can provide proper facilities for the students already there.

MR PRENTICE—I acknowledge that the universities have been passing through a difficult period of financial stringency. That is the reason why last week we announced an additional grant of £15m during the current year to try to ease some of the problems. We have fixed a lower student target figure for 1980 than was previously the case. This will involve expenditure consistent with the Robbins principle.

MR LANE (Cambridge, C)—Although last week's announcement may be some help, will the Secretary of State go on using his powerful muscle on the Treasury to shield the universities from the worst effects of inflation?

MR PRENTICE—I will certainly do my best to use my muscle on the Treasury. I sometimes think my life is divided into two parts—one fighting the Treasury and the other having to imitate them.

Rejection of Bill on school leaving age

MR FREUD (Isle of Ely, L) was refused leave by 228 votes to 130 votes to bring in a Bill to amend the school-leaving age to enable certain students to terminate their formal secondary education before the age of 16 years.

He said that since he had sought leave to bring in a similar Bill five months ago he had received over 300 letters from headmasters and teachers and every one of them was in favour of it.

Education was oriented towards examinations. His contention was that when a 16 year old had taken the CSE or O level, what was the point of keeping him or her on at school? The Bill sought to enable pupils to leave after their examinations.

There were many children who had made up their minds what to do in life. Education was a preparation for life and the Bill proposed that this fifth year be spent under the umbrella of the education authority but possibly with work experience and day release on colleges of education.

There was in his constituency one enlightened headmaster who took his post examination students on 12-bore shooting courses. (Laughter.)

MR RICHARD MITCHELL (Southampton, Itchen, Lab) said he believed strongly that they should set a single school-leaving date. He would choose June 1, to operate at the latest in 1976.

There had been only a year's experience of the new school leaving age, and the measure suggested in the Bill would make matters worse. It should be decisively rejected.

Reserve forces benefits

MR TOMLINSON (Meriden, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether to make arrangements to improve the benefits payable to members of the Reserve Forces or their families in the event of death or injury attributable to service.

MR WILLIAM RODGERS, Minister of State, said in a written reply: Yes. With effect from April 1, 1974, we are introducing new arrangements to supplement the benefits already payable under the Department of Health and Social Security's war pensions scheme in cases where death or injury is attributable to service and arises in the course of peacetime exercises or training.

In cases of death the reservist's widow will receive £382 a year from Defence Votes plus £127 a year each for up to four dependent children; if the reservist is unmarried a single payment of £254 will be made into his estate.

A reservist who is disabled to a degree requiring his discharge from the Reserve will receive between £254 and £509 a year according to degree of disability. These amounts, which will not vary by rank, will be increased from time to time in the same way as pensions increases are applied to other Armed Forces pensions. They may be reduced on account of any damages recovered by the reservist or his dependants. We will ensure that payments are made as quickly as possible in cases which have arisen since April 1, 1974.

Parliamentary Notices

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Debate on devolution for Scotland.

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Debate on the economy on a motion for the adjournment. Motion on BLMC.

Reorganization in schools

MR NEWENS (Harlow, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many schemes for the introduction of comprehensive schools had been submitted by local authorities since February, 1974.

MR ARMSTRONG, Under Secretary, said in a written reply: Since Mr Prentice came into office, 82 statutory notices have been published under Section 13 of the Education Act, 1944, mostly by local education authorities but in some cases by the governors or promoters of voluntary schools, relating to the submission of proposals for 169 secondary comprehensive schools, whether newly established or to be formed by the reorganization of existing schools.

Of these he has approved 12 sets of proposals, to give 48 schools, together with 66 sets of proposals submitted during his predecessor's term of office, to give 113 schools.

Alignment of food duties on EEC imports

MR JAY (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what increases, if any, in levies or duties on foodstuffs imported into the United Kingdom from outside the EEC it was proposed to make in January, 1975.

MR STRANG—On January 1, 1975, in accordance with our obligations in the Treaty of Accession, the United Kingdom will make its next step towards alignment with the rates of duty in the CCT on imports from third countries. This step is an alignment of 20 per cent in the difference between United Kingdom and CCT duty rates. In some cases this will result in a decrease in duties and in others an increase. Special arrangements will continue to apply to trade with associable Commonwealth countries and with certain Mediterranean countries. Full details of the rates applicable from January 1 are contained in the Import Duties (General) (No 5) Order, 1974.

There are no transitional steps towards EEC price levels for leviable commodities to be taken in January. Actual levies payable vary according to the level of world prices. Because of high world prices and the operations of monetary compensatory amounts levies are not currently charged on many items imported from third countries.

We are however adopting full Community prices for sugar from January 1 because of the present exceptional situation on the world sugar market. Given the present level of world prices import levies will not be payable.

Sorting mail automatically: 9m items a wee

MR ATKINSON (Haringey, T tenham, Lab) asked the Secret of State for Industry what perc tage of letters were automatica sorted using the postcode syste what was the estimated cost be fit to the Post Office; and wh was the estimated cost to indust commerce and the public of add a postcode to the normal addres

MR GREGOR MACKENZ Under Secretary, in a writ reply, stated: The Post Office t me about 6 per cent of all mact able mail, or some nine mill items a week is at present sor automatically; and that, wi postal mechanization helps reduce the demand for scarce m power, the full financial benefits automatic sorting will not acc until the network as a whole completed.

Providing effective defence system in line with Britain's resources

House of Lords

LORD SHEPHERD, Lord Privy Seal, moved that the House took note of the statement on the defence review made by the Secretary of State for Defence.

He said it was not just defence which had been singled out for stringent treatment. Government expenditure as a whole must be restrained to free resources for more productive economic use, particularly for exports and import saving and for productive investment.

The objective of the review was to ensure the maintenance of a modern and effective defence system while reducing its cost as a proportion of their national resources. The Government's proposals put the balance right.

The Government's proposals were based on the principle that they should concentrate as a first priority on those areas in which they could most effectively contribute to the security of the Nato alliance and the United Kingdom itself. They would maintain and, where necessary, improve the effectiveness of those elements of the forces which were committed to the direct defence of Britain and the seas around it.

The Government were under no illusions about the threat presented by the Warsaw Pact. The Soviet Union was steadily building up its forces. These factors had strongly influenced their thinking throughout the defence review. They were not proposing to make any reductions in the fighting capability of RAF Germany.

Efforts at sea would be concentrated where they could most effectively deal with the threat from the increasingly powerful Soviet submarine forces in the east Atlantic and Channel.

Final decisions would not be taken until the full process of consultation with their allies and partners in the Commonwealth had taken place.

There were some who would wish to see greater reductions, but such a course would create difficulties for allies in Europe. The defence posture the Government inherited belied Britain's true political and economic strength. The aim of the Government had been to bring these factors into line over a period which allowed an orderly transition without jeopardizing central security interests.

Our immediate battle (he went on) is on the economic front; there lies our greatest risk. As in defence we need the cooperation of our allies, so the main responsibility at home is ours to ensure a more sound economic base on which our political and social fabric depends.

LORD CARRINGTON (C), Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs and defence, said people were only interested in defence when they were threatened and then it was too late to do anything about it because preparations should have been made years before.

If by imprudent savings or political ignorance defence cuts put at risk the alliance on which they depended and their capacity to defend themselves, then much harm would be done.

There was one area of saving not mentioned: rationalization and collaboration of development and production of weapons. It was extraordinary that 25 years after the inception of Nato the European armed services still had different concepts of tactics and strategy, leading to different weapons. It was here that real savings could be made.

He hoped the Government would stand up and say they believed in defence and that those who took part in it were essential to the national survival and wellbeing. Whether the Government had done serious damage it was too early to say, but the country would hold them responsible.

LORD GLADWYN (L) said in general the Liberals understood the need to streamline defence expenditure in the nation's present dire economic straits, but regretted that at times electoral rather than strategic considerations seemed to have been responsible for some of the economies.

The review could pose serious questions of morale in the Services. The old recruiting slogan used to be: "Join the Army and see the world". But "Join the Army and get shot at in Ulster" seemed an unattractive alternative. The effect on recruiting was likely to be severe. What plans did the Government have to deal with that?

There were two imperatives: to strengthen collective security and to make the best possible use of existing manpower and resources.

LORD CHALFONT said assuming that substantial defence cuts had to be made the proposals were sound, honest and businesslike.

This was not an extensive review; there must be a review of a fundamental kind which started from the bottom. There must be no sacred cows of nuclear submarines, bases, garrisons, naval dockyards or weapon systems.

There were many people in Britain who stood ready to exploit Britain's illnesses and undermine the freedom of the political system. They would do it with violence, if they believed it would succeed. This was as much a threat to Britain's security as any threat from outside.

Adequate coal for winter

LORD ORR-EWING (C) asked the Government to admit that whereas at the beginning of last winter there were 35 million tons of solid fuel in stock there were only 21 million tons this winter and it would be wise to launch a major publicity campaign urging people to use the minimum of solid fuel.

LORD BALOGH, Minister of State for Energy, said the conditions which applied last winter did not apply this winter. The Government would certainly launch a publicity campaign for energy saving in general. This winter they would have, he hoped, a continuous supply of coal and even severe weather would not interrupt it.

LORD HAILSHAM of ST MARYLEBONE asked if that complacent reply amounted to a guarantee for this winter.

LORD BALOGH said he would never guarantee anything.

Exclusion order served on five

MR BEITH (Berwick u Tweed, L) asked the Home Sec tary how many people had b served with exclusion orders; h many exclusion orders had b signed but not served; and h many people had been exclu since the Northern Ireland (P vention of Terrorism) Act. 19 came into effect.

MR ROY JENKINS, said in written reply: Notice of the m ing of an exclusion order under Prevention of Terrorism (Temp ary Provisions) Act has b served on five people.

Two of these five have b removed and representations m in respect of the other three under consideration. In additio have made five exclusion orde notice of which has not be served.

Three of the persons concern are understood to be outside t United Kingdom.

هكذا من الأصل

We've always maintained it takes two weeks to really enjoy Silk Cut. Some people don't agree.

In the past, we've always advised new Silk Cut smokers to try out our cigarette for at least a fortnight.

Two weeks, we felt, was about the time it took to appreciate its mild, yet satisfying taste.

(Particularly after some stronger cigarettes.)

We fight shy, however, of giving such advice now.

Since we've recently come across a number of our smokers who tend to disagree with it.



Iain Campbell, Glasgow.

Iain Campbell is, as is evident from his photograph, a keen gardener.

And as such appreciates that good things sometimes take a little time to blossom.

"I was quite prepared to spend a couple of weeks getting to like Silk Cut," he said. "In actual fact, it took just over a week."

Alfred Custance had much the same sort of experience.

"It didn't take me any time at all," he told us.



Barbara and Alfred Custance, Woodingdean, Sussex.

His wife, Barbara, also happens to be one of our smokers.

In fact, she was the person who introduced him to Silk Cut.

Though she did find the transition from her previous cigarette somewhat harder.

It having taken her a month.



Phillipa Hather, Manchester.

Phillipa Hather has smoked our cigarette for six months.

And like Iain and Alfred, found the change an easy one.

"It only took me one cigarette," she declared. "I enjoyed smoking Silk Cut straight away."

Albert Fisher, you will note, experienced a touch more trouble than that.

He spent a good three weeks smoking our cigarette before he could really say he enjoyed it.



Albert Fisher, London.

But he agreed with Phillipa, Alfred, Barbara and Iain on one point at least:

That we should tell you it's worth acquiring a taste for Silk Cut.

Even if it does take more than a couple of weeks.

As you can see, we thought it better they tell you themselves.

Silk Cut. The mild cigarette.

THE SILK CUT RANGE: SILK CUT REGULAR, KING SIZE, NUMBER 1, NUMBER 3 AND EXTRA MILD.

LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government

EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Why universities may be forced to lower their standards

● The Association of University Teachers, which has 27,000 members, meets in Bath today at a time when universities are more under threat from financial starvation and national ill-will than they have ever been before. Professor William Wallace, a pro-Vice-Chancellor of the New University of Ulster, Coleraine, and this year's president of the association, argues that universities provide a vital service, which the nation cannot afford to do without.

Most British institutions are susceptible to caricature, and none more so than the universities. Bespectacled old gentlemen in gowns and mortarboards arguing abstruse irrelevancies against a background of gothic towers; scruffy, long-haired undergraduates rampaging through glass and concrete administrative blocks: these are the stock-in-trade of the critics. Other institutions are equally vulnerable. The trade unions, for example, receive their share of abuse. But they can hit back and protect their interests in a way the universities cannot. If power workers strike, governments and the public pay heed to their demands. If universities teeter under inflation, governments and the public admonish them and bid them do more with less. The possible decline of the universities carries no immediately obvious threat to the welfare of the nation.

The decline is not quite under way. The quinquennial settlement was less than reasonable, but some developments could be postponed and others slowed down. Supplementation for inflation was removed at the very moment that inflation started spiralling, but reserves could be run down and universities could go over to deficit financing. The University Grants Committee could throw in the small fund it had set aside to encourage innovation, and the Government could add a little more to compensate for having calculated too savage a non-supplementation cut. But with major deficits destined for the end of this academic year and crippling ones for the year after, real and rapid decline is horrifyingly near.

For several years now all universities have been searching out ways of saving money. Inflation apart, it has been very difficult in face of the increasing sophistication of both teaching and research and the rising expectations of both students and the public at large. No doubt more can be done through increased rationalization and greater cooperation, particularly where institutions are fairly close to one another. But there are limits, to go beyond which would destroy the comprehensive and corporate nature of individual universities.

The importance of the universities to the economy is frequently overlooked. An annual expenditure of more than £400m on staff, buildings and facilities carries greater significance when broken down to £4-5m for Sussex, £3-4m for Lancaster, or £2-3m for Stirling. The annual output of highly skilled manpower is now quite staggering, not far short of 60,000 with first degrees or of 15,000 with higher degrees. About 50 per cent of those with first degrees are in pure or applied science, including medicine, and about 60 per cent of those with higher degrees. Some of those with first degrees immediately go on for higher degrees, and some with either go abroad. But altogether about 9,000 enter engineering, chemicals and manufacturing industries in general, and about 1,000 each enter commerce, banking and accountancy.

The welfare state and the public services also depend heavily upon the output of graduates. The 3,000 doctors and dentists are already insufficient to meet the annual needs of the health service. Central government absorbs 1,000 graduates a year and local government 3,000. More than 1,000 take up legal practice, and more than 10,000 go into one level or another of education.

Contrary to fashionable belief there is no shortage of good or potential applicants for university places. Despite the alternative opportunities offered by polytechnics and other institutions of higher education the number of students admitted this October has again increased on the previous year.

If some universities had to close down, the remainder would have difficulty maintaining the present level of output, let alone increasing it or going seriously into the field of continuing education. But it is doubtful whether any government would want to face the political consequences of closures, or could even contemplate them given the arguments and forces that would be ranged against them. If all the existing universities were given just enough supplementation to stay in business, it is equally certain that they could not cope with rising numbers, or indeed cope properly with what they are at present.

But the crux of the matter is that, unless the universites are restored to something like the comparative financial position they had before they were caught up in the scissors of government economy and accelerating inflation, they will have no alternative but to reduce the standard of the education they provide. Once all the economizing and redeploying has been done, there still needs to be substantial supplementation —and reparation—if the technologists and economists, consultants and civil servants they turn out are not to be sub-standard and therefore damaging to the industrial and social fabric of Britain.

The importance of university research is also underrated. About one-eighth of the universities' recurrent expenditure is provided under grant or contract by outside bodies specifically for research. But that is only the tip of the iceberg. The whole system of university financing is based on the interdependence and inextricability of teaching and research; and academic staff spend upwards of a third of their time (much of it "out of hours") on research of one kind or another. Exploring the energy field and applying discoveries has depended in large measure on the universities, as have advances in medicine, in the understanding and safeguarding of the environment, and in the protection of the socially disadvantaged and the treatment of the socially sick.

All this is now in jeopardy. The fall in public funding is worsened by the reduced budgets of the research councils and the investment difficulties of many of the private trusts. It may be no loss if some of the more esoteric and much-criticized research projects go to the wall. But any serious decline in the research activity of British universities would not only lower the standard of their graduate output but would seriously impair the international competitiveness of the British economy and the quality of life of the British people.

No one would argue that there is perfection in the universities. Some of the caricatures are not caricatures at all. However, the universities are fully alive to the realities of Britain's domestic and international situation, and they are anxious to be able to make their contribution to retrieving it and to helping mankind at large. They are willing to make sensible economies. They are trying to improve themselves as, for example, the Nuffield investigation into innovation in higher education is already showing. But they cannot accept that their currency must be debased.

It is appropriate rather than unfortunate that the universities have no weapons other than reasoned inquiry and discussion. All they ask of the government and the public is reason in return. There is urgent need of informed debate and meaningful negotiation to enable the universities to do all that is required of them in teaching and research in the next crucial decade of reassessment and recovery.

William V. Wallace

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Ronald Butt

An economic tightrope for Labour

In its debate on the economy today, the House of Commons has to address itself to a very simple question. With the nation staggering near the brink of the worst economic crisis of the century, is Mr Healey justified in his reliance on his search for Arab cooperation, and on the social contract and his recent public expenditure cuts at home, to pull the nation back to comparative safety? The Chancellor's direct and friendly approach to the Arabs may well pay off, for there is little support among America's allies for Dr Kissinger's wish to wield a collective cudgel of consumer resistance against the oil producers.

Yet since the Chancellor came back from Saudi Arabia in an apparent mood of ebullience, the Government has almost seemed to be using his optimism as a justification for diverting attention from that part of Britain's inflationary problem that is generated at home—and it is the consequence of this attitude that the Commons have to scrutinize. Dare the Government rely in 1975 on the social contract; are there other things that should be done and, if so, why will the Government not do them?

The rationale of the Government's resistance to doing more starts from its assertion that our domestic problem is one of inflation, but not one of excess demand. It therefore insists that deflationary measures which would damage productivity are ruled out; that the wage increases must be kept within manageable limits by the social contract; and that so far, the social contract (the miners excepted) is not doing too badly even if it is not doing as well as might be hoped.

However, it is a question whether the social contract, even if it works as well as possible within the Government's definition of it, is an adequate policy. In this respect, Mr Michael Foot's party political broadcast last week was illuminating. Essentially, what he had to say was this. The Government is prepared to concede extra high wages to deserving cases (the miners, the bakers and the nurses) but if everyone gets (say) 30 per cent, the special advantage that these groups ought to have would be lost, prices would be pushed up all round, and a slump would be brought nearer.

Therefore, said Mr Foot, the wages aspect of the social contract was vital—but the way in which he defined this was significant. He pointed out that there was no room for any *increase* (and he underlined the word in his text) in living standards. Wage settlements must be on the basis of keeping pace with the cost of living and no more, and also on the basis of making new wage settlements only every 12 months.

Yet even if the social contract works according to Mr Foot's definition, it is surely a question whether, if it does sustain living standards it will be an adequate economic defence.

If wage increases enable people to sustain the same standard of living on the basis of rising important prices, the danger is that we shall continue to build external inflation into our own economic structure. On this analysis, it is arguable that wage settlements ought to be marginally *below* what is necessary to sustain the standard of living, with the result that people reduce their consumption, if inflation is to be checked.

Whitehall's answer to this, in justification of the present policy, is that it would of course be a correct analysis if import prices rose beyond a certain rate, but the hope is that the rise in raw materials will begin to ease off and that the oil producers will be reasonable. Given no great worsening of the external position, the argument runs, a social contract that keeps wages in line with the rise in the cost of living should be enough to conquer inflation gradually assuming an annual productivity increase of between 2 and 3 per cent. This should give producers an annual 2 or 3 per cent improvement in their unit costs which, if passed on to consumers, would mean the gradual conquest of inflation over a period of time.

How long this would take is, of course, a key question and the answer depends on various



Mr Foot: A wage freeze would mean his departure.

uncertain factors such as import prices and the development of wage settlements over the next year—but even the optimists concede that 1975 will be a bad and dangerous year.

Put like this, it hardly needs stressing how fragile a defence is the concept of a nicely balanced social contract on wages which seems to promise maintaining living standards—and this would be true even if the social contract worked as well as the Government hopes which, of course, it is not doing. In this situation, the economic forecasters of the Treasury know that, while it is possible to write an optimistic scenario based on Arab cooperation and the social contract at the end of which we should be "rescued" by North Sea oil, it is also possible to write a pessimistic scenario which, at worst could culminate in a catastrophe based on a wages explosion in the middle of an industrial slump.

To anyone not afflicted by the Micawberish optimism that is an occupational hazard of ministers, the pessimistic scenario must appear the more likely with the unions in their present mood, and one suspects that this would also be the analysis to which the Treasury would primarily address itself if loyalty to its political masters did not constrain it. However, the truth is that officials, like ministers, are bound by the simple fact that even if they agreed that something more ought to be done now, there appears to be nothing that could be done at this moment because of the political constraints on the Government.

Further deflationary measures are ruled out because of the Government's commitment to employment and job protection—even though Mr Benn's extreme version of job protection, regardless of the economic price, has had a setback with his enforced abandonment of his hopes of saving the HS146, which he had hoped to save with Government money. The fact is that rescuing the jobs that men are already in is a major consideration for the Labour Government as a whole.

Similarly, realistic pricing policies still have to be subordinated to the "social contract" on wages. The measure that Whitehall (left to its own devices) would, one suspects, be most prone to consider, therefore, is a short wage freeze which would not be followed by the kind of statutory policy for incomes which caused the Tories so much trouble. But Mr Wilson is over and over again pledged against such a policy (at any rate until the crisis has already burst) and the officials who write it into their various contingency plans know that at the moment a wage freeze is politically not "on". It is understood that such a policy would mean the departure from the Government of Mr Foot, because of his close ties with the union hierarchy. And though it does not necessarily followed that Mr Benn, whose syndicalist responses to the shop floor represent a different brand of leftism from Mr Foot's, would go with him—the fact is that a wages freeze would split the Labour Party, even if it were adopted in a dire emergency.

So, almost certainly, would the use of the price code to penalize employers who conceded wage claims outside the social contract (an idea already floated by Mrs Shirley Williams) or of making such additional pay subject to extra tax on the recipient. Although no such propositions have been formally put to ministers, they have been canvassed in Whitehall contingency planning papers and left-wing ministers have reacted very angrily even to discussion of the idea.

Finally, we have the possibility of import controls to reduce internal consumption perhaps with the rationing of some raw material and fuel. This idea is not simply antipathetic to ministers afraid of its deflationary impact, or the consequences for the Common Market negotiations. The idea plainly also causes the Treasury to shudder—much more than a wages freeze would—since it is against all the prevailing wisdom.

Not only are the Government and its officials afraid of economic reprisals, and of provoking a world slump, but they also believe that it would worsen the wages position at home because it would mean that we cut out the goods that are cheapest to import.

So, for political reasons, the Government rests on its present policies. It is a situation as plain as it is bizarre. Even if the Government, on the present evidence, was inclined to believe in the pessimistic scenario of the future, the political constraints on its own actions by the Labour Party and trade union feeling would prevent it from taking any further action unless a storm breaks. Only if and when this happens will it perhaps have the freedom to do so—and then at great potential cost to the Labour Party. That is the situation in which the House of Commons debates the economy today. It is not one that is pregnant possessing in terms of democratic politics or that give much ground for hope that things will be better before they are worse.

Bernard Levin

Wild imaginings that see a baby as a guerrilla

The most extraordinary thing about the remark that Dr Bridget Rose Dugdale is reported to have made at the first sight of her new-born son—"He's going to be a guerrilla"—is that she probably did make it. Indeed, it is quite possible that it was not even said with conscious thought of its effect; "He's going to be a guerrilla" may actually have been the first thing she *thought* when she saw her child. For

Cruelty has a human heart
And Jealousy a human face;
Terror the human form divine,
And Secrecy the human dress.

And it is therefore not at all impossible that Dr Dugdale is so far removed from consciousness of her own inadequacy, so unable to see the nasty futility of her own life, so achingly devoid of any trace of a sense of humour, that all she could see in the infant was something as mad, bad and dangerous to know as herself. One would not expect Dr Dugdale to declare that her son was a little bundle of joy sent by the angels, nor that his tiny fingers and toes were as beautiful as fairies' footprints; nor would one expect her to announce his birth in the appropriate column of *The Times*. All the same, even for a woman whose most notable achievements to date have been to rob her own parents and then to terrify two gentle people and steal their pictures, probably for no better reason than that in her poor, broken mind the people represented her parents and the pictures something as eternal and immutable as her beliefs are insubstantial and ramshackle, you might suppose that her first thought at the sight of her first-born would be something less fatuous

"He's going to be a guerrilla." No doubt Dr Dugdale would dismiss with contempt anyone who found anything odd in such a response to the sight of her new-born child. The "revverlution" is all that matters, and for her I suppose, a baby is not, as it might be to other women who had just given birth, a creature who might take any one of a million paths through life, who might achieve fame or happiness or suffer pain or failure, but an empty vessel into which she will pour all her ignorance, all her desperate need to turn her self-hatred outwards, all her intolerance and dark desire to inflict pain, until the vessel is full of it and it spills over into the same waste and folly as she has made of her own life. She thinks of herself as a guerrilla, though in truth she is nothing but a fool: so she thinks of her son as a guerrilla, though in truth he is nothing but a baby.

One might think that even a woman as confused as Dr Dugdale would stop for a moment and think of her own birth and of her own parents. It is not recorded what *her* mother's first words after giving birth were, though I think it is unlikely that they were "She's going to be a fascist-capitalist - imperialist - bandit", still, it is even more unlikely that they contained even a passing guess at what she did in the end become. No doubt, human nature being what it is, Dr Dugdale's mother hoped that her daughter would grow up to be a credit to her parents; no doubt it did not cross her mind that the child would grow up to be a violent termagant in a rotten cause. Is it not possible, then, that Dr Dugdale's son may grow up to be something less than a credit to *his* parents, that he might, while loving his mother no less than her parents still clearly love her, confound her hopes by becoming say, a stockbroker, an army officer, or a poet? She will, of course, do her best to inculcate him with the bent and grubby values by which she lives; but then, her parents did their best to imbue her with the spirit of the straight and honourable values by which they lived, and although of course she would reverse those pairs of adjectives, doing so might not, in itself, be quite enough to ensure that her proud boast—"He's going to be a guerrilla"—*is fulfilled.*

Feeling sorry for Dr Dugdale, which I do and which I hope any person of sensibility would, is presumably something that would make her much angrier than hatred and denunciation. However just a prison sentence may be, and however impossible it may be to have people like that walking about free to be a menace to everybody else, the sheer horribleness of locking human beings up in a cage, whatever they have done, still comes into any contemplation of crime and punishment. How much more, then, must one feel sorry for Dr Dugdale. In the first place, she committed her crimes because her poor, soft, impressionable head had been so crammed with crazy rubbish by her lover and her own psychological problems that everything else was pushed out of it. And in the second place, of course, she has given birth to a child in prison, and since it is inconceivable that the Irish authorities will allow the child to grow up in prison, there will come a parting which for her will be doubly bitter in that it will not only be the parting of a mother from her child but will inevitably torment her with the conviction that he will be taught to hate her rubbish cause. I hope myself that he will not need to be taught that I hope that he will conclude when he is old enough to think about such things, that a cause which leads to such empty beastly behaviour as his mother was involved in must be a cause to shun, though I hope he does not go on from that conclusion to shun his mother, too.

It may be, of course, that he will grow up to be a credit to her in a sense different from that which she would understand, and instead of being a guerrilla will be the instrument of rescuing her from the mental morass in which she wallows; perhaps he will, through example if not through argument, show her, in the most literal sense of the old word, the error of her ways. Perhaps yet the only thing of which we can be certain is that anyone who will undertake to say certainly what a newborn child will become is likely to be confounded; there is no reason to suppose that Dr Dugdale is any exception to that proposition, and therefore her son, though he may indeed turn out as she hopes, is much more likely not to. "He's going to be a guerrilla", is he? Has Dr Dugdale thought of the ultimate horror, the possibility that he might be a priest?

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'Ore te kimaasai aisidai ankaini oleng'



In Granada Television's *Disappearing World* series, the people speak for themselves. Sub-titles explain the meaning of what the men and women of the tribal societies are saying, but viewers have the pleasure of hearing the way they say it. A simple technique, but one which shows that the human voice can be as important as words in communicating beliefs and ideas.

Here is what some of the critics have said:

'Granada's *Disappearing World* is going a long way towards rehabilitating the image of "savages", partly because of the quality of anthropological reports on the lines of *The Masai*, and partly because the simple expedient of using sub-titles gives us direct access to the timbre of their language'. *Sunday Times* (Peter Lennon)

'... the excellent *Disappearing World* has by now led us to expect the bonus of talk, with sub-titles'. *The Observer* (Clive James)

'... I can't remember seeing a documentary that got so well beyond the superficial to reveal the living sinews of a fascinating way of life'. *Daily Express* (James Murray)

'This was an unusually clear and vivid picture of life in a tribal society based on intimate knowledge'. *Daily Telegraph* (Sylvia Clayton)

'Shutting your eyes, you can still see flying bodies, naked but for the shine of oil or the pattern of paint. Women laughing over their shoulders, children collapsing with giggles, families talking together in their hammocks in the evening while the clouds turned puffed and pearly ... Games, games. Regardless of their doom the little victims play. Though, it seems, the men at least know that a highway is to be driven within a mile of their village in a year or two, and when it comes they are finished. All Granada can do and is doing is to preserve them in amber'. *The Guardian* (Nancy Banks-Smith)

The final programme in the current *Disappearing World* series – *The Sakuddei* – is on Independent Television tonight at 9 o'clock

GRANADA TELEVISION

The Times Diary

Going hungry to help the starving

The churches are to promote a Frugality Campaign in Britain in the coming year with the idea that families will deny themselves a meal a day or a meal a week and devote the proceeds to Third World aid. Lailan Young, who has just returned from India, asked people there (though not the starving ones) what they thought of the plan:

A driver in Calcutta, who sends half his earnings back to his impoverished family in Bihar, was not going to scorn help from any quarter. "Even small amounts can help a little", he said, but added: "The first help should come from rich Indians."

Richer Indians often disagreed. Professor Chaturvedi of the Benares Institute of Medical Sciences said: "This small gesture will not help a big problem. It is to help their own ego; a country which ruled us ruthlessly for 150 years cannot think of us now." Another professor at the same institute said: "The British would not dare offer such things to China."

An assistant editor of *The Statesman* in Calcutta did not like international charity: "It does not make any difference and it creates a false impression of people fulfilling their moral obligation." The financial director of a firm manufacturing oral contraceptives denied any belief in charity: "It is better to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish", he said, unconsciously echoing charity advertising in Britain.

A guide in Darjeeling said that by giving the British could teach rich Indians a lesson in generosity, and the director of a hotel in Benares was enthusiastic: "If people all over the world did this and missed a meal a week everyone in the world could be fed."

Mother Teresa said that her organization has got 26 ambulances to minister to 46,000 lepers in their care from people who had given up a meal a week. The Reverend Subir Biswas, dean of Calcutta Cathedral and director of their relief mission, said: "You have to feel it before you can do anything. Anyone who has given up a major meal a day feels it. We do it here at the cathedral to remind ourselves what it feels like."

Christian Aid, in Britain, say they are not going to make their major launch of the Frugality Campaign until after Christmas.

Not serious

There was a nasty scene at the Albert Hall on Monday night during a concert of Greek music in aid of Cyprus refugees. Ian Hendry, the actor, left the stage to some jeers and booing after a confused 20-minute performance of readings and jokes which offended many of the 3,000 people in the audience.

Hendry had not been scheduled to appear in the programme. He did so at the last minute suggestion of Stavros Xarchakos, the Greek conductor. Xarchakos wrote the music for the recent television series, *The Lotus Eaters*, in which Hendry played an alcoholic living in Crete.

It was Hendry's light-hearted approach which first alienated the audience, among whom were the Cyprus High Commissioner and Greek Ambassador. He began with a joke about "when I was a little girl. . . ."

George Lanitis, the press counsellor at the Cyprus High Commission and vice-chairman of the Anglo-Cypriot Society, said yesterday: "People went there to pay homage to the refugees. It was a serious affair and he wasn't serious. As far as we were concerned it was rather unfortunate that he was there."

Hendry came on stage and sat on a high stool. According to one member of the audience he "rambled in an incoherent way about his early experiences at the Albert Hall". This is when the heckling started. "Hendry, you're boring us", one man shouted.

Then he read a poem by a young refugee and further angered some spectators by appearing to be dismissive about it. He followed this with what he described as a poetic composition of his own, which some Greeks and Cypriots found incomprehensible.

There were further jeers and groans at this point. "Get off", some people shouted.

W. B. Whitworth of Much Hadham spotted this novel gift idea in the Christmas gift guide in The Times *last Saturday*: "*Girl to join ski party. . . .*"

Uncharitable

Sales of charity Christmas cards in London have dropped by some 25 per cent this year. Part of the shortfall is probably due to the failure of the Charity Christmas Card Council—which represents 105 charities—to open its outlets on time. The opening of four of the seven outlets was delayed by at least a week and takings are down by £20,000.

One factor in the failure to open the outlets on time was apparently a disagreement among council members about suitable sites. Each year, sites are lent to the council by business firms.



Last year the council began selling cards in London on October 8 and between then and December 7 did £79,000-worth of business. This year it began on October 14 and between then and December 7 did £60,430-worth of business.

Rude, nasty

The Bear Gardens Museum in Southwark has a Christmas show appropriate to its antecedents if not to the good will of the season. *A Very Rude and Nasty Pleasure* takes its title from Pepys and is an exhibition devoted to the history of fighting dogs, and of bull and bear baiting—ferocious sports for which the Southwark Bear Garden was a popular centre from Tudor times.

The show was arranged in cooperation with the Southern Counties Staffordshire Bull Terrier Society, and dead dogs of several ugly and pugnacious breeds play a prominent part in it. There is also a stuffed bear which looks as if it had been baited with mothballs.

A tribute to the British bulldog, *Canis Pugnax*, says that breed is magnificent, ancient, rare, much maligned and much misunderstood. "The bold, brave and most resolute of animals . . . there is nothing a good bulldog will not attack . . . with many less courage he will give up or die with life itself". Sadly such sterling British qualities are rare for export: "This noble dog becomes degenerate abroad."

Sporting

When is a festival an arts festival? Local authorities have different ideas on the subject according to today's Arts Council report on local spending on the arts and museums.

"Despite reluctantly exchanging primarily stomach-oriented *feasts, it may be that some* of the figures listed include money spent on oxen (for roasting) and pigs (for bowling for) and other ingredients in the gastronomic arts," says the report. Contributions to Christmas street lighting were omitted. Contributions to the English Folk Dance and Song Society are included, although, by some quirk in our cultural history, this body is grant-aided by the Sports Council, not the Arts Council.

I am sorry that I diagnosed Lord Olivier's illness wrongly yesterday. He is suffering not from muscular inflation but from muscular inflammation, though I expect that, like the rest of us, he is suffering from inflation also. Get well soon.

PH

Raymond Fletcher's weekly column will appear on this page tomorrow.

هكذا من الأصل

TIMES PAST
THE TIMES
New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

HE NEVER GOES

The changes in the procedure for the selection of the leader of the Conservative Party are important for the future but they are not very likely to produce a result different from the one that might have been expected under the old procedure. On the first ballot the leading candidate will have to receive both an overall majority and 15 per cent more of the votes of those entitled to vote than any other candidate, if he is to be elected. Under the old procedure he had to receive an overall majority and a 15 per cent margin, not from those entitled to vote but from those actually voting.

The real significance of this is that it gives more weight to abstention. If all Conservative Members of Parliament actually cast their vote, then there is no difference between those entitled to vote and those voting. If on the other hand some Conservative Members abstain in protest against the present leadership without preferring the alternative on offer, they will make it difficult for anyone to be elected on the first ballot. On the second ballot the leading candidate only has to receive an overall majority of those entitled to vote, and on the third ballot he has to receive an overall majority, including those second preferences which are transferred to him under the alternative voting system. Abstention is not allowed on the third ballot.

This system of voting means that the procedure becomes easier as each ballot is held. If a candidate is in a dominant position in the beginning there is no reason for his vote to be eroded, and he almost certainly only has to wait for the second or third ballot to be sure of winning. The significance of the later ballots depends therefore on the first ballot producing no conclusive result. Thus all the advance leaks that the new system would be very prejudicial to Mr Heath turn out not to be true. It will be a little harder for him to win on the first or even the second ballot but that is about all there is to it.

What has happened since the election has undoubtedly strengthened Mr Heath's position. Immediately after the election it was very difficult to find Conservative Members of Parliament who did not think that Mr Heath would have to go. Now there is an increasingly strong expectation that he will in fact beat any candidate likely to stand against him. The Conservative Members of Parliament are not as volatile as this suggests. They still have very serious reservations about Mr Heath as a leader. They admire his force of character and his courage, but they do not think that he is an election winner and they do not believe that he pays sufficient attention to parliamentary opinion. They also argue that the absence of an alternative leader is in itself a condemnation of nine years of Mr Heath's leadership. It has not built a strong enough team.

Nevertheless the other possible leaders have been going down like ninepins; Mr du Cann, who had some real support though probably not enough, has ruled himself out repeatedly because of his chairmanship of the 1922 Committee, and did so finally and convincingly last night. Mrs Thatcher will probably stand, but the Conservative Party does not seem to want a woman leader and has taken a minor gaffe about the tins in her larder as an excuse for crossing her off the list. Sir Keith Joseph has made worse gaffes than Mrs Thatcher and has crossed his name off as completely as Mr du Cann. Mr Whitelaw will not stand against Mr Heath and Mr Prior will not stand against Mr Whitelaw. Lord Carrington is in the House of Lords and Sir Christopher Soames is in Brussels. At the moment the spectacle of Mr Heath's potential rivals is like that of the English cricket team in Australia. All the best people are either in the wrong country, have retired hurt or have got themselves out by kindergarten strokes.

This may well change. It has changed completely in the last two months and could change equally radically in the next two. There is nevertheless something satisfying to the sense of humour about what seems to be happening. After all the fret and fume, this difficult but determined man reemerges out of the fog like some grey rock emerging out of the Atlantic mist. Mr Heath is not like the radio character who said "I go, I come back". He never goes.

It is an impressive political achievement for Mr Heath even to have got this far. It will be an even more impressive achievement if he actually survives. He will not only have confounded his enemies; he will also have confounded his friends. If he does survive he will need to learn from the experience, and the danger is that he will learn the wrong lesson. The right lesson is that he should listen more to diverse opinion and that he should pay attention to the often well-grounded opinions of men with very different minds from his own. The wrong lesson, though it is not wholly untruthful, is that in political life the strongest will prevails. Even President de Gaulle, whose will was heroic, lost his last referendum. Mr Heath is now exposed to meeting the demands of annual elections.

THE PRESIDENTS AGREE

The agreement reached in Martinique between Presidents Ford and Giscard d'Estaing is good news for a world which badly needs it. One of the most depressing aspects of the West's reaction to the energy crisis during the past year has been the constant bickering between France and the United States, with France's European partners swaying uncertainly between them.

Each side had some legitimate criticisms to make of the other. The French rightly pointed out that the acrimony between oil producers and oil consumers was partly caused by America's unconditional and uncritical support of Israel from 1967 onwards, and was exacerbated by clumsy American attempts to dragoon the Western nations into an anti-Arab or anti-oil-producer front, with scarcely veiled threats to seize the oil by force if it was not made available on Western terms. The Americans rightly replied that France made nothing easier by systematically rejecting all attempts to pool energy resources or coordinate the consumer response to OPEC, especially since the producers tended to see France's attitude as confirming their most paranoid suspicions about American intentions.

Yet in fact, as the two Presidents have now at last noted, "their views on these matters are complementary". The consumers need *both* to coordinate their policies with each other *and* to seek an amicable understanding with the producers. They cannot negotiate effectively with the consumers without first reaching some understanding among themselves. But nor can they draw up a complete energy policy on their own without ascertaining the producers' views. The two processes have to be dovetailed into each other, and the timetable worked out in Martinique—consultation among consumers, preparatory conference with producers (in March, 1975 if all goes well), further "intensive consultations" among consumers, and finally the full consumer-producer conference—seems as reasonable as any.

When President Giscard d'Estaing originally proposed the consumer-producer conference on October 23, he envisaged it as a triangular conference in which the Third World consumer countries would take part separately from the industrialized (OECD) countries. This was a generous and imaginative suggestion, which unfortunately was not followed up in Martinique. Perhaps it is thought that the Third World countries can get better terms for themselves in a separate forum dominated by Afro-Asian solidarity. But no way has yet been found of creating a separate oil market for them. Their interests are bound to be affected by whatever is decided in a consumer-producer conference, and it would be better if they appeared there in their own right.

The Franco-American compromise will of course only work if both sides respect its spirit as well as its letter. It is not in itself a solution to the many disagreements on points of detail which have arisen or will arise in the future, and which could easily reopen the split if either side reverts to the bad old habits of polemic and *procès dintention*. To give just one example, it makes no clear choice between the rival schemes for recycling oil-producer capital put forward by Dr Kissinger and Mr Healey. The reference to "new mechanisms of financial solidarity" in the context of the industrialized nations is apparently an endorsement of Dr Kissinger's proposals, while the phrase "closer financial cooperation within the International Monetary Fund" may refer to Mr Healey's, which have the undoubted advantage of being looked on with greater favour by the oil producers themselves.

As for the American recognition "that it would be appropriate for any government which wished to do so to adopt current market prices as the basis of valuation for its gold holdings", this is little more than an endorsement of recent European practice.

President Ford's advisers are quoted as hoping that France had been "brought back on board" the Western alliance by the Martinique meeting. The phrase is perhaps unfortunate because it could easily be misunderstood in France. No one should suppose that France is about to rejoin the military organization of Nato or to reverse any of the main lines of her foreign policy. The change of emphasis and of tone is none the less very marked. It seems clear that France will no longer maximize differences with her allies for the sake of it, as too often happened in General de Gaulle's day, and more recently in M Jobert's. This was what many Francophiles abroad had hoped for when President Giscard d'Estaing was elected, and perhaps also what many Gaullists at home feared. That Martinique should coincide with a crisis in the Gaullist Party in Paris is perhaps not entirely fortuitous. In their different ways, President Giscard d'Estaing and his prime minister have shown that they are not afraid of the Gaullist old guard.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britain and the Middle East: political advertisements

From Miss Daphnce Slee

Sir, The Jews are a proud and honourable people and I would like to ask them for an act of justice—namely, that they should stop attributing base motives to us who support the Arabs. We support them because we believe that their cause is just; and it takes a little courage to do it—we have to steel ourselves against the abuse that will follow if a letter is published.

We are not "giving in to Arab oil blackmail"—the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (for example) was in being some six years before the oil producers (by no means all of whom are Arabs) put their prices up. We are not "anti-semitic"—it would be odd, if we were, considering that the Arabs are probably purer "Semites" than the Jews—but we believe that telling lies against Jews is not the only form of racialist sin, it is just as wicked to tell lies against Arabs.

I would remind your readers that Israel became a "sovereign member of the United Nations" on the explicit condition that the wrong done to the Palestinian exiles was righted; instead it has been aggravated to the point where every Palestinian is living either in exile or under alien rule. If the Palestinians are now so desperate that only a terrorist will do as their representative, the fault lies not with those who have tried to help them but with those who made them desperate. It is time that they stopped talking about "Arab oil blackmail" and "anti-semitism" and faced their own consciences.

Yours faithfully,
DAPHNE E. SLEE,
Rydlinch,
Osmington,
Weymouth, Dorset.
December 13.

From Rabbi Sidney Brichto

Sir, Your leader "The Freedom of Debate" (December 14) gives sufficient proof of the desire of *The Times* to be fair to both sides in the Arab-Israel conflict, but it also indicates the basis of the misunderstanding which has arisen between your respected newspaper and the Jewish community.

I once again ask for space in your correspondence columns in the hope that I can remove this misunderstanding by explaining the sensitivity of the Jewish community when Zionism is attacked.

The fact is that while no Jew would wish to deny anyone the right to criticize Israel, it has become suspicious of attacks on Zionism. This is due to several factors. First, since the Holocaust, anti-semitism has become quite unfashionable in Western society as no decent person will admit to such feelings, even though it would be naive to think that they have ceased to exist. The Jewish community has reason to believe that anti-semitism rears its head again under the banner of anti-Zionism. Russian and Arab propaganda literature against the Zionists substantiates this belief.

Secondly, while Jews were divided about Zionist ideology before the birth of the Jewish state in 1948, many sincerely arguing against the need for a sovereign Jewish state, the Nazi holocaust, the establishment of Israel and the wars it had to fight to maintain its existence has made all self-respecting Jews into Zionists i.e. dedicated to the survival of the state of Israel.

For this reason Zionist fund raising is no more than Jewish fund raising and I would suggest that although much money is given by non-Israeli Jews to Israel for the sole purpose of absorbing their persecuted brothers and sisters from Soviet Russia and Arab countries, they do not make as much financial sacrifice as do the native born Israelis who do without homes and other necessities so that the newcomer from Russia should not be disappointed when he reaches his Promised Land. I would also point out that Jews feel no less obligated to help settle their persecuted co-religionists in any country which would receive them. It is the miracle of modern Jewish history that after two thousand years there is now a country which would never close its doors to them—the state of Israel.

The Jewish people has fought hard and has sacrificed much blood to make this dream—this haven of refuge—into a reality. Therefore, while Jews will accept criticism of Israeli policies and indeed join in such criticism themselves, non-Jews should not be surprised when an attack on the right of non-Israeli Jews and non-Jews to support Israel's humanitarian efforts is seen as nothing but an expression of anti-semitism.

Yours faithfully,
SIDNEY BRICHTO, Chairman,
The Council of Reform and
Liberal Rabbis,
The Montagu Centre,
109 Whitfield Street, W1.
December 16.

From Mr Michael Tatham

Sir, Some years ago I was very disappointed when—without advancing any reason—*The Times* refused to accept an advertisement for free car stickers designed to promote racial harmony in this country, and that unfortunate experience makes me feel that it is the more important in the present instance to say that I believe you were entirely correct to accept the material which was recently inserted to promote the Arab cause.

The issues at stake are clearly national rather than racial and I hope it remains possible to deplore every form of racialism while remaining critical of the national policies of any government no matter whether African or Israeli. I am only sorry that you appear to have yielded to pressure in refusing a further insertion of the same advertisement.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TATHAM,
Clod Hall,
Odell, Bedford.
December 15.

From Mr John Reddaway

Sir, Annoyance at the anti-Zionist advertisement which you published on December 11 has betrayed Sir Michael Hadow, the Director of the Anglo-Israel Association, into making a statement in his letter December 14 which is untrue and which I feel sure he will, on reflection, wish to withdraw. The correct facts have been pointed out to him previously, together with Israeli and Jewish sources confirming these facts.

He says that 750,000 Jews were "driven out of Arab lands and stripped of all their possessions". The truth is that most of these Oriental Jews migrated to Israel of their own accord or in response to intense pressure by Zionist recruiting agents (whose methods included the placing of bombs in a synagogue and other places frequented by Jews in Baghdad). Most of them came to Israel not in the immediate aftermath of the fighting in 1948 but long after during the middle and late 1950s when Israel was seeking new Jewish settlers to consolidate its hold on the lands depopulated by the exodus of Arab refugees. Only a minority (probably less than 200,000) can claim with any plausibility that they went to Israel as refugees or were "driven out" of the countries of their birth; and of these no one really knows how many were in fact forcibly expelled and how many simply chose to leave. And regrettable though it was that some Arabs in some Arab countries used force against their Jewish countrymen, this would never have happened if it had not been for the forcible seizure of Palestine by the Zionists from its Arab inhabitants.

On the substance of the advertisement, perhaps the "philanthropists" in this country whose contributions have helped to finance the construction of the fortress-like apartment blocks with which the Israelis have surrounded Arab Jerusalem would answer this question: Did they or did they not realize that, by their action, they were helping Israel to colonize Arab lands, to dispossess Arab owners, to swamp the Arab population with Jewish settlers and to defy Security Council resolutions regarding the requirements for a just and lasting peace?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REDDAWAY,
19 Woodsyre,
Sydenham Hill, SE26.
December 16.

From Mr Arnold Wesker

Sir, I do not understand Mr Hetherington's letter in today's *Times* (December 16).

The "Middle Eastern advertisement was rejected by us (*The Guardian*) because we felt that it could encourage racial hatred". But "we believe *The Times* to be entirely right in saying that the Board of Deputies of British Jews is making a mistake in reporting you to the Attorney General. In so doing the board is seeking to deny to others a freedom to advertise their case which it has recently exercised itself".

The Guardian, in turning down the advertisement for fear it "could encourage racial hatred" was *not* denying "to others a freedom to advertise their case", but the Board of Deputies, reporting its fear that the advertisement "could encourage racial hatred" *was* denying "to others a freedom"?

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD WESKER,
27 Bishops Road, N6.
December 16.

From Miss Sybil Baroudy

Sir, When is racialism respectable? A number of your readers have detected racialism in the anti-Zionist advertisement you published on December 11. I wonder what they would make of remarks made on the same day by Lord Janner in the course of a debate on the Middle East in the House of Lords. He declared that the leaders of the Palestinian people "defiled the United Nations General Assembly", and "intend to do what, horrifically, Hitler did, but perhaps in a different way"; that their "predecessors were in Germany helping to arrange to kill six million people"; and that they were "the instrument of the Devil" (see *Hansard* cols 712 and 713).

Perhaps your readers can understand the disgust which I, as an Arab, felt as I sat in the Chamber of the House of Lords last Wednesday and listened to these remarks.

Yours faithfully,
SYBIL BARODY,
9 Bulstrode Street, W1.
December 16.

From Mr Desmond Duncombe

Sir, To a Jamaican the Middle Eastern controversy and the battle over advertisements seems to have come out of Gulliver's Travels. Peace? If the foreign Zionists did not pump Slavs from Eastern Europe into West Asia there would be peace there.

Yours truly,
DESMOND DUNCOMBE,
92 Landor Road, SW9.

Hospital service at holiday periods

From Mr J. M. Davies

Sir, The creation of New Year's Day as a public holiday may, or may not, have been a good thing for industry but it introduces serious inefficiency into the hospital service. Hospitals are always short-staffed for most of the Christmas week and a backlog of all types of work rapidly accumulates during this holiday period.

Furthermore the lull, caused by patients having deferred admission or clinic attendances in the pre-Christmas period, is suddenly transformed into a post-Christmas rush. At this very time of increased work load we now find that the hospital will be closed for all except emergency work on January 1.

As a practising surgeon, I find that the holiday period this year will waste three outpatients sessions and that 120 patients will have their appointments postponed and will overload my outpatients clinic for the remainder of January. This will inevitably lead to delay, overcrowding and loss of efficiency.

If these extra public holidays really are necessary (and with the present national crisis they seem the height of stupidity) then let them be added on to the individual's annual leave so that they can be staggered and thus save severe dislocation of the hospital service.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. DAVIS,
Consultant Surgeon,
Whittington Hospital,
St Mary's Wing,
Highgate Hill, N19.

Fair play at auctions

From Sir Edward Ford

Sir, What is Geraldine Norman (*The Times*, December 12) complaining of? The Normanton Parmigianino was auctioned like any other object at one of Messrs Christie's sales and was "bought in" by the vendor, who immediately afterwards sold it to the National Gallery, which had not bid.

What wrong has been done and to whom? Many of us have had the experience of seeing an object in which we are interested bought in for £x at auction and have approached the auctioneers afterwards to see if the vendor would be willing to sell it for £x plus.

Is a national museum or gallery to be inhibited from doing the same? What "ground rules" are being broken by this procedure, and how are other bidders or collectors injured thereby? There was nothing to prevent them bidding at the sale if they wished. And why should the gallery or the firm of auctioneers give details of what became in effect a sale by private treaty?

One of the results of an auction is to determine the monetary value of an object at a particular time. Unless an object is exposed to the procedure of the sale-room its value is often hard to assess. The system of "reserves" enables a vendor to prevent it being sold at less than what he is prepared to receive for it. It does not stop a purchaser from acquiring it, if he is prepared to pay more.

Paintings and other works of art are frequently bought by purchasers whose sole object is to resell them at a considerable profit. Museums and galleries are usually prevented from bidding by lack of funds, since it is only when a firm price is known that they are able to apply to the Treasury for a Government grant, and then only if they have sought and obtained support from grant-making bodies and individuals.

Nobody knows better than the curators of our great galleries how much time they must spend in begging for such grants—time which could be so much more usefully employed in administering their museums. If only the Government was prepared to make available to (say) the National Art-Collections Fund a sum for the purchase of objects of national or local importance comparable to that which it puts at the disposal of the Arts Council for the living arts, the process of enriching the national heritage of works of art would be greatly simplified.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD FORD,
Fielden House,
Little College Street, SW1.

Remarriage of divorcees

From Mrs B. Horswill

Sir, Today I see that you have printed yet a third letter advocating disobedience to the ruling body of the Church of England (December 12). Is it not just this defiance of the legally expressed will of the majority that is causing much of our current misery? The arguments for and against the re-marriage of divorcees by Church of England rite have been argued and decided not once, but twice by the General Synod of the Church of England.

The wish of the majority is clear and the duty of all is to accept. No one, in this country, is denied a civil ceremony where a first marriage has failed but a Church of England marriage requires a unique and binding vow and the majority wish it so. Let it be.

Yours faithfully,
B. HORSWILL,
Penhale,
New Barns Road,
Arnside via Carnforth,
Lancashire.

Ha lit et al

From Mrs Dorothea Jones

Sir, Having been offered a house with half a ha of ground, a kilo from the sea, potatoes by the kilo, lard in 453 grm packs and vinegar by the lit (priced in new pence); and having been advised to take 5 ml of mixture after meals, that I am 86 cm round the hips and that the temperature won't rise above 6C, how refreshing it was to hear this morning on the radio from Australia that someone "has been in for 176 minutes". Minutes! A link with the past! I knew about minutes when I was a girl. So let's enjoy the time while we can understand it, before in the sacred name of progress we move into micro-terms and millimins.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHEA JONES,
53 Kingsway, Petts Wood, Kent.

Farm worker's lot

From Mr J. M. Rampton

Sir, When I read Mr Bottini's letters to the press written from his union address in London I sometimes wonder how much contact he has with the modern farm worker.

Virtually every farm worker is now a certified craftsman of one sort or another and since this gives him another £4-£5 a week his basic wage next year will not be £27 but £32. Most livestock farm workers get paid a substantial bonus at the end of the year, as do arable workers during the busy times such as spring and harvest for the various jobs they do. The farm worker also now receives three weeks holiday with pay.

Above all it should be remembered with the shortening of the farm working week to 40 hours overtime now begins at 4.00-4.30 and from this time onwards the farm worker is paid "time and a half". Since the farm worker has virtually no travelling time and usually walks to his work it is no great hardship to him to sit on a tractor for an extra 1½-2 hours a day; there is little arduous physical work on the mechanised farm of today.

Next year the average wage on this and other farms will be about £2,000 a year. It was not far short of this figure last year.

Let us now turn to the much maligned tied cottage. The open market value of most of these cottages is now in the region of £6,000-£8,000 and in some cases and in some districts a good deal higher. If we take interest charges, the ever rising cost of rates, insurance premiums and repairs the farmer must be subsidising the housing of the farm worker to the extent of another £10 a week. This accommodation is, of course, tax free.

All this in inflationary times may not be riches but it does indicate that the farm worker is in practice a lot better off than Mr Bottini claims and could be a very great deal better off if he could persuade his fellow trade unionists, most of whom are urban consumers, to pay a realistic price for home produced food.

The English housewife, and probably the only housewife left in the world, still expects to have a pint of fresh milk to be delivered on her doorstep every day—for 5½p—a third of the cost of a pint of a mass-produced beer of negligible alcoholic content!

Yours faithfully,
J. M. RAMPTON,
Easton Lodge,
Easton, Nr Norwich

City and British Leyland

From Mr A. D. Brand

Sir, Mr Marsh (December 12) forgets that the City like the Government, has no money of its own, only other people's. I have long since given up any hope that my tax contribution will be spent or invested wisely, but heaven help me if my pension fund manager or investment manager of the insurance company with whom I have a life assurance behaves in the same way.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. BRAND,
Glynde Combe,
Glynde,
Lewes,
Sussex.
December 12.

National Insurance rate for self-employed

From Mr George Cunningham, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury

Sir, "Unjust, harsh and divisive", "beyond reason", "shabby imposition", "morally offensive"—these are among the words used by George Hutchinson (article, December 14) to describe the increase in National Insurance contributions by the self-employed.

The core of this dispute is—should the self-employed pay the full cost of the pensions and other benefits they receive or should they be subsidized by employees and their employers? The fact that is not disputed by either side in the House of Commons is that the self-employed *are* subsidized by other contributors. This is a serious question and there are points to be made on both sides.

The only approach to the matter which calls for unqualified condemnation is to indulge in exaggerated abuse without making any effort to state, or even acknowledge the existence of, rational arguments on the other side. Elsewhere in the same article Mr Hutchinson talks of "a lack of inspiring guidance and direction" as one of the current failings in our society. This lack is shown as much by the press as by politicians, never more so than where superficial abuse takes the column inches that could be used for well-informed, rational analysis of a complex issue.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,
House of Commons,
December 14.

Accident compensation

From Mr Paul Sieghart

Sir, The pressures on your space are too great for me to indulge the temptation of answering in detail all the points made, since my last letter, by Mr Ogden, Mr Kidwell, and Professors Atiyah and Bartsch. Besides, it is probably premature to start a full debate before we know what Lord Pearson's Royal Commission will recommend. But there are a few points which must be put right, however summarily.

First, *Justice* has never suggested that innocent victims should get less than they do now. Nor is it true that a "no fault" system must cost more unless they do. Under the new American systems, no one gets less than before, everyone gets quite a lot regardless of fault (typically 85 per cent of lost earnings), and premiums have still gone down. People are still allowed to sue, but most of them no longer bother because they are adequately compensated without going to law. That may be a loss to the lawyers, but it is a gain to everyone else.

Second, many victims are better off in New Zealand than they would be here. Here, if they can prove "fault", they can eventually get a lump sum which is often too small, which inflation erodes, and whose income is taxed at "investment income" rates. There, they get indexed weekly payments for as long as they are in fact—and not just expected to be—disabled. *In addition*, they can get up to £6,000 for "non-economic" loss.

Third, the reforms proposed by Messrs. Ogden (November 22) and Kidwell (November 28) would still leave many injustices untouched. Because of their insistence on distinguishing "guilt" from "innocence", fault would still have to be investigated whenever the defendant blamed the plaintiff. We know that this takes far too long costs far too much (at least 40 per cent of total premiums, on the best estimates), and is far too chancy. No one benefits from it, except perhaps the legal profession. Many who are wholly "innocent" would remain uncompensated because they could find no one else to blame, e.g. the motorcyclist who skids on an invisible patch of black ice.

Nor can it be right to punish with a fine of tens of thousands of pounds the family of a young driver who has been paralysed for life because for one fateful split second he looked to his left when he "should" have looked to his right. It is no answer to say that he should not be compensated because his neighbour who has been paralysed by sickness would resent it if he were. Envy is no warrant for the perpetuation of injustice. Rather let us compensate the neighbour, too, as soon as we feel that we can collectively afford it.

Professor Atiyah (December 7) feels that *Justice's* proposals do not go far enough. I agree, but since we cannot reform everything at once, it is wrong to allow the present injustices to road victims (which are the worst) to continue until we have. It is good to know that both Mr Ogden's and Mr Kidwell's Committees now also favour reform. I hope that both of them will therefore support *Justice's* request that the Pearson Commission should make interim recommendations about this part of its field of inquiry. Only then can Parliament ensure that we shall have no more cases such as the recent ones which have given rise to this correspondence.

Yours, etc,
PAUL SIEGHART, Chairman,
Justice Committee on Compensation for Disablement,
6 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.
December 12.

Energy saving

From Dr K. S. Hall

Sir, In advocating a higher tax on larger cars (December 10), you overlook a rather obvious fact—the quantity of petrol used by a car depends not only on the size of its engine but also on the distance for which it is driven. I have a large car (3 litres) but unlike many owners of smaller cars, I seldom use it for personal transport. For that I use a bicycle, covering 3,000—4,000 miles a year.

The way to reduce the consumption of petrol is to relate the cost of motoring more closely to the quantity of petrol used. The Government has taken a sensible course. An even more sensible course would be to abolish road tax altogether (or, if as I suppose is the case, registration is considered necessary on other grounds, reduce it to a nominal figure) and recover the lost revenue by a further increase in the tax on petrol.

Yours faithfully,
K. S. HALL,
The Limes,
23 Bromley Grove,
Shortlands,
Bromley, Kent.
December 12.

Buses in convoy

From Mr J. B. Turner

Sir, Notwithstanding the implied criticism of Mr Leon Kreitzman, the fact of the matter is that, since London Transport adopted the convoy system, not a bus has been lost.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. TURNER,
Eleos,
Kingsdown Road,
Teignmouth,
Devon.
December 12.

Prisoners in S Africa

From the Bishop of Stepney

Sir, Bernard Levin's moving and persuasive article on South Africa's political prisoners (December 12) is as timely as it is unanswerable. It is known that Mr Vorster played a significant part in securing the Rhodesian *détente* as a result of which all political prisoners in that country have been released.

Yet in South Africa the appalling cruelty and misery of Robben Island and its total denial of human compassion to those even in mortal sickness, like my friend Bram Fischer, continues.

In addition to this, under Section Six of the Terrorism Act, at least 30 persons have been arrested and are presently held in prison for organizing a rally in support of Frelimo and the liberation of Mozambique. The rally in fact did not take place. But since September these people have been held under an Act which authorizes *indefinite incomunicado* detention and which usually involves interrogation in conditions of solitary confinement without access to books, papers, relatives, friends, lawyers or doctors. The police are answerable to none but themselves.

Unlike Mr Levin I am not appealing to Mr Vorster. I am appealing to our own Government which at the United Nations this year used its veto in the Security Council and its vote in the General Assembly to sustain South Africa's continued membership of UNO.

I fully understand and respect the motive behind our actions: namely that it would make it easier for us to press for positive change on the part of South Africa if she continued to be susceptible to international pressure within the Organization. But, as Mr Levin has pointed out, the most immediate and urgent change open to Mr Vorster is that which Mr Smith has already accepted: the release of prisoners whose only crime is opposition to tyranny.

Can we have an immediate assurance from our own Government that it is doing its utmost, in the name of common humanity, to this end?

Yours faithfully,
† TREVOR HUDDLESTON, CR,
400 Commercial Road, E1.
December 12.

A child's guide to the season's entertainments

Young people who live in the London area can meet Old Masters this Christmas, learn how stars pulsate, work their way through the Bodybox or find out how a surgeon spends his day—all by courtesy of some of the great national institutions which let down their hair at this time of year.

Both in and out of London there are all the usual Christmas shows and exhibitions. Details can be found in local papers but here is a selection:

Christmas shows

Cockpit Theatre: *Humbug*, adapted from *A Christmas Carol*, December 30-January 4; *Sinbad*, Paul Hansard's Puppets, December 26-28—both matinées only.

Inter-Action: *The Last Straw*, with live animals and live musicians, an "environmental barnyard entertainment"; Boxing Day until January 5, Almost Free Theatre—matinées.

Jack and the Beanstalk, Unicorn Theatre for Young People, until January 19—matinées.

Dr Who and the Daleks, Adelphi Theatre, from December 16, daily at 3 and 7.30.

Give a Dog a Bone, Westminster Theatre, daily 2.30, Friday 7.30, Saturday 6.30.

Sooty's Christmas Show, Mayfair Theatre, December 16-January 4—matinées.

Toad of Toad Hall, Haymarket Theatre, December 23 to January 18—matinées.

Winnie-the-Pooh, Phoenix Theatre, December 14-January 11—matinées.

Wonderful Wombles, Shaftesbury Theatre, December 16-January 18—matinées.

Peter Pan, London Coliseum, December 18-January 8—matinées and evenings.

National Film Theatre, Junior NFT: December 21, *Dougal and the Blue Cat*; December 28, *The Court Jester*; January 4, *Louisiana Story*—all matinées.

Babes in the Wood, Ashcroft, Croydon, December 20-January 25.

Lectures, exhibitions

National Gallery: *School's Out!*; meet the Old Masters; new out of school activities for eight to 14-year-olds, from December 12 to January 17; three times daily Tuesday to Saturday, twice on Sunday.

British Museum: Talks, films and activities, December 27 to January 4, 10.30 and 2 daily for 10-15-year-olds; eskimoes and aborigines are among subjects at the Museum of Mankind, 10.30 and 2.

Matters medical: Royal College of Surgeons holiday lectures—*The Romance of Surgery—Cutting for the Stone*, December 20; *Cell-Watching or Indoor Ornithology*, December 23; *A Surgeon's Day*, December 31—all at 3 (tea served at 4).

Royal College of Physicians: *Men of the Arabian Desert*, December 19; *Sport, Physical Activity and Health* (Dr Roger Bannister), January 2, both at 3 (also with tea). Royal Society of Medicine: *The Making of a Mental Hospital*, December 30; *X-rays in Man, Beast and Mummy*, December 31; *Organ Grafting* (Professor Roy Calne), January 2, all at 2.30, tea about 4.

Institution of Structural Engineers: *What Ever Happened to the Motor Car?*, January 3, 2.30.

London Museum, holiday lecture, The *Sleeping Beauty*. Victorian pantomime (children over seven), December 31, January 2 and 3, at 2.30.

Institution of Civil Engineers: *Foundations for the World's Longest Span—Humber Bridge*, December 31; *Discovery and Development of North Sea Oil*, January 2, both at 2.30; films on January 3 at 2.30.

Royal Society of Arts: *The Trumpet Through the Ages* (Philip Jones), December 20, 2.30; *The World of Percussion* (James Blades), December 30, 2.30 (both followed by tea).

Victoria and Albert Museum, *Bodybox*, children's exhibition and workshop, until January 26, usual hours.

Institute of Contemporary Arts: *Abrakadabra*, live clowns, hand puppets, etc, December 28 at 11.30, December 30 and 31 at 3. Entry 25p.

Tate Gallery: *Top Ten*, famous paintings, December 31; *Age of Pop*, January 2; both at 2.

Science Museum: *Pulsating and Exploding Stars*, December 28, 30 and 31.

Horniman Museum, Forest Hill: *Growing up in the Sun*, Northern Nigerian life, toys and games, December 27, at 3 (eight to 13 year olds).

Tickets are available for many of the lectures and exhibitions, for some you just walk in; inquire from the secretaries, numbers and addresses in telephone directory.

Out of London

Glasgow's events include a pantomime with a local title, *Mother McGlasgow*, now on, and *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the Citizens'. Not forgetting *Robinson Crusoe* at the King's.

Manchester's fare is mainly pantomimes and shows, and Liverpool's Everyman Theatre is running *The Cantril Tales* for secondary schools from Boxing Day. *Vanload*, the touring company, is doing a show called *Sweetie Pie* for secondary schools, free, and teachers should contact them for dates. Liverpool's International Library, next to the Walker Art Gallery, has *Chosen for Children*, an exhibition of very old comics (no, not the live variety), dating from 1600. This lasts until December 28.

Kenneth Gosling

Katie Stewart

Meals between meals for Christmas



David Frankland

In-between meals at Christmas need not be substantial. A steaming bowl of minestrone soup, or hot bacon sandwiches with a salad are the kind of foods that will be most appreciated. Plan suppers that are quick to prepare and easy to serve.

Make a dish of eggs as the Swiss do. Spread 2oz butter thickly over the bottom and sides of a wide shallow casserole or fireproof *gratin* dish. Cover the butter with very thin slices of cheese and on top crack six eggs. Season with salt and pepper, then pour over ¼ pint single cream and finally sprinkle with 2oz grated cheese. Bake for 10 minutes in a quick oven (400 deg F or gas no 6) to cook the eggs and then give the dish half a minute under a hot grill to crisp the top. In individual *gratin* dishes you can make this for one or two—allow about 1-2 tablespoons cream per egg. Serve from the dish with hot buttered toast.

You can put your frying pan to work and make scrambled egg for everyone. It is more sensible to use a frying pan when making a larger amount. To make scrambled egg really appetizing use a gentle heat and do not stir all the time so that the mixture is broken up. Wait until the mixture begins to set at the bottom and sides of the pan and then draw the spoon through the mixture gently, so it piles up in soft creamy mounds. Prepare a basic recipe using 8 eggs, which is sufficient for 4 servings, along with ¼ pint creamy milk, 1 level teaspoon salt and some freshly milled pepper. Serve scrambled egg on hot buttered toast, in crisp hot *vol-au-vent cases*, or cheese pastry cases.

Scrambled egg with anchovy added is very nice. Allow one anchovy fillet per egg, chop finely and add to the beaten egg mixture, but go easy on the salt for seasoning. Or you might like to spice up the egg mixture with the addition of mustard and Worcestershire sauce.

Devilled scrambled egg

Serves 4

8 large eggs

¼ pint single cream

1 level teaspoon salt;

freshly milled pepper;

1 level teaspoon dry mustard;

½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce;

1½-2 oz butter

Crack the eggs into a mixing basin, add the cream, salt, a seasoning of pepper, the mustard and Worcestershire sauce. Whisk ingredients together and strain.

Heat the butter in a frying pan and pour in the egg mixture. Cook over gentle heat and as the mixture begins to set draw the thickened egg up in soft mounds with a spoon, allowing the uncooked mixture to run against the hot pan base. Draw off the heat while the egg is still moist and serve with fried mushrooms or grilled bacon rolls.

A plain omelette can be made much more interesting if you give it a filling of fried leeks and bacon. For four servings you need about 1lb leeks which should be trimmed, washed and shredded and 4lb lean bacon rashers finely chopped. Add these to 2oz butter melted in a frying pan and season with salt and pepper. Stir and then cover with a lid. Cook over gentle heat for about 15-20 minutes by which time the bacon will be cooked and the leeks tender. Spoon a little into the centre of each omelette as you prepare it and before folding it over.

An open omelette with a savoury topping is the answer for two servings. This one with cheese, tomato and herbs tastes good and looks colourful. Serve it with crusty bread and a salad.

Pizza omelette

Serves 2

4 large eggs;

salt and freshly milled pepper;

1 tablespoon cold water;

1oz butter for frying

or the topping

1 oz butter

1 medium onion

2 teaspoons concentrated tomato purée.

pinch mixed herbs

3-4 bacon rashers

2 oz grated cheese

Crack the eggs into a basin, add the seasoning and water. Mix with a fork and set aside while preparing the topping.

Melt the butter for the topping in a saucepan. Add the chopped onion, cover and cook gently for 4-5 minutes, or until the onion is tender. Add the tomato purée and mixed herbs, cook for a moment more and then draw off the heat. Trim and chop the bacon rashers. Fry in a dry pan until the fat runs and the bacon is cooked. Drain and reserve.

Place the butter for frying in an 8-9 inch heavy frying pan. When melted and bubbling pour in all the omelette mixture. Stir for a moment using the back of a fork and draw the omelette mixture in towards the centre of the pan so that the liquid egg runs underneath. When set underneath but still moist on top, draw the pan off the heat.

Spoon over the tomato and onion mixture. Top with the bacon and sprinkle with the grated cheese. Place the omelette under a hot grill just long enough for the cheese to melt. Slide out of the pan onto a hot dish and serve.

For a quick supper snack dip slices of bread—crusts removed—into seasoned beaten egg letting it soak well in. Then fry to a golden brown on both sides in hot butter and use as a base for grilled bacon rashers, anchovy fillets, sardines or grilled tomatoes. Hot newly made toasted sandwiches to eat with a knife and fork can always be relied on to revive even the most jaded appetites. Toast the bread for hot sandwiches on one side only. Lightly butter the untoasted side and sandwich the slices together with the hot filling inside and the toasted sides outwards.

Use grilled bacon rashers to make hot bacon sandwiches or sandwich a fried egg and bacon between the toast slices.

For a toasted cheese sandwich, cover the untoasted side on one slice with cheese. Grill until melted and bubbling and then sandwich with the second slice. Or better still combine ham and cheese by placing a slice of ham on the untoasted side under the cheese before grilling. Then sandwich with the second slice.

A club sandwich needs three slices of toast with the middle slice toasted both sides. Spread untoasted side of the bottom slice with butter, then top with chicken or turkey, lettuce and mayonnaise. Cover with the middle slice of toast, then grilled bacon and sliced tomatoes and finally top with the remaining slice of toast, butter untoasted side inwards.

The classic combination of a hot vegetable with cold meat instantly cheers up slices of honey roast ham, cold chicken or turkey. Potatoes are just right now for baking in their jackets. Choose large even sized ones, scrub them and, while still damp, roll them in kitchen salt. Salt brings out the flavour and keeps the skins deliciously crisp during cooking.

With your frying pan you can make lots of crisp fried potatoes with onion and if you care to add chopped anchovy fillets just before serving they will have a really good flavour. Make your fried potatoes with blanched slices of raw potato and you will find them a great improvement on the left-over boiled potatoes so often used. Blanched raw potato slices are just as quick to cook and rarely break up on frying.

To serve four you will need about 1½lb potatoes. Pare and then cut them into ¼in thick slices. Blanch for five minutes only in boiling salted water, then drain. Fry them as you would normally, remembering that for crisp potatoes that are tender inside you should cook them over a fairly high heat. Use a mixture of butter for flavour and oil to get a good colour without burning. Any onions to be mixed with the potatoes should be fried separately for they require gentle cooking. Proportions are not important, one or two onions peeled and sliced are usually adequate. Add the cooked onion to the pan of potatoes just before serving and give the mixture a quick fry to heat everything through.

Savoury rice makes a marvellous hot dish too, but the mixture must be well spiced and with plenty of flavour. Try Spanish rice which is a mixture including onion, tomatoes and herbs, or make up a packet of the curry flavoured ready-to-cook rice to which you can add extra crunchiness with toasted flaked almonds.

At Christmas time especially good soups can be made with packet or condensed soups when you use turkey stock instead of water. Into a really large saucepan put the broken up carcass of the bird and any bones from the meat, any ham skin, bacon rinds or giblets. Add a large onion stuck with a clove, a large carrot scrubbed and halved, 1-2 sticks celery, a small bay leaf and a few parsley stalks. Add cold water to cover and allow 1 level teaspoon of salt for every 2 pints of water. Bring to the boil for 2 minutes only, skim carefully and reduce the heat to a simmer. Leave to cook for 3-4 hours, then strain carefully and use.

Any home-made stock makes just the right base for minestrone—a soup which really does need the flavour of a good broth. This is a substantial mixture—almost a vegetable stew. If a lighter soup is required either increase the amount of stock, or use fewer vegetables.

Minestrone

Serves 4-6

1 carrot

Small piece turnip

1 medium potato

1-2 stalks celery

1 onion

1oz butter or 2 tablespoons oil

1 clove garlic, optional

2-3 streaky bacon rashers

1½ pints stock

2 large tomatoes

1 small leek

1 cup shredded cabbage or sprouts

1 oz broken up spaghetti or quick cooking macaroni

grated cheese for serving

Peel and slice the carrot, cut up the turnip and potato into small dice. Wash and slice the celery thinly. Skin and chop the onion finely.

Heat the butter or oil gently and add these vegetables. Add the skinned, crushed and chopped garlic, if liked. Sauté for a few minutes, then add the trimmed chopped bacon and cook for a further 2-3 minutes.

Stir in the stock and season as required—if you use ham stock or bouillon cubes, remember they are rather salty. Simmer with the lid on for 20-30 minutes, until the vegetables are almost tender. Add the tomatoes, skinned, halved and chopped up, the leek finely sliced and the shredded cabbage or sprouts. Bring back to the boil and then add the spaghetti or macaroni. Boil gently with the lid *off* until the pasta is cooked—about 10 minutes. Check seasoning and serve with a bowl of grated cheese, preferably Parmesan.

It's got to be Gordon's.

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هكذا من الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

KINGHAM PALACE

mber 17: Mr F. B. Cooper Majesty's Ambassador Extra- ary and Plenipotentiary for Commonwealth of Australia at on) and Mrs Cooper had the ur of being received by The n this morning.

Excellency Mr Yong Shik was received in audience by Majesty and presented the rs of Recall of his predecessor his own Letters of Credence mbassador Extraordinary and otentiary from the Republic orea to the Court of St 's's.

Excellency was accompanied e following members of the ssy who had the honour of presented to The Queen: ong Ick Choi (Minister), Mr Won Yoon (Counsellor), Mr ng Kim (Counsellor), el Dong Yull Seo (Defence hé), Mr Chang Rak Kim (Fin- Attaché), Mr Nam Kun Park Secretary), Mr Byung Bae (First Secretary) and ohng Chan Lee (First Secre-

lame Kim had the honour ing received by Her Majesty. Thomas Brimelow (Perma- Under-Secretary of State for gn and Commonwealth s); who had the honour of received by The Queen, was t and the Gentlemen of the hold in Waiting were in lance.

Robert Hunter Wade was ed in audience by Her ty and kissed hands upon his intment as Her Majesty's Am- lor Extraordinary and Pleni- tiary for New Zealand at

Hunter Wade had the r of being received by The

Justice Oliver had the r of being received by Her ty upon his appointment as tice of the High Court of when The Queen conferred him the honour of Knight-

Right Hon Harold Wilson, rime Minister and First Lord Treasury) had an audience r Majesty this evening.

Duke of Edinburgh, as ent of the Council of Engin- Institutions, this afternoon ckingham Palace presented acRobert Award Prize and for 1974.

Prince of Wales this morn- esided at a Meeting of The 's Council at the Duchy of all Office, 10 Buckingham

Royal Highness later atten- ncheon given by the RNVR stion at the Naval Club, Hill

Hon Mary Morrison has ded the Lady Susan Hussey y in Waiting to The Queen.

NCE HOUSE

ber 17: Queen Elizabeth ueen Mother was present ening at the Bar Musical 's Twentyfirst Anniversary t give at the Middle

Hon Mrs John Mulholland ptain James Duncan Millar n attendance.

Hon Mrs John Mulholland succeeded Mrs Patrick ell-Preston as Lady-in-Wait- Her Majesty.

CHED HOUSE LODGE, MOND.

ber 17: Princess Alexandra, resident of the British Red Society and Patron of the Red Cross, and the Hon Ogilvy were present this g at a performance of *on Ice*, given in aid of ndon Branch of the Society, Empire Pool, Wembley.

Hon Lady Rowley was in ance.

Henderson sends to all his us and friends warm Christ- eetings and best wishes for w Year.

aham and Lady Rowlandson t be sending Christmas cards ear and would like to take portunity of wishing all their s a Merry Christmas and New Year.

Provost and Fellows of the rn Division of the Woodard ration have appointed Mr Hill, a housemaster at nierpoint College, Head- of the Cathedral School, ff, as from September,

ndays today

eville Ashenheim, 74; Sir Batsford, 64; Lieutenant- l Sir Edwin Bramall, 51; E. Fraser, VC, 54; Mr opher Fry, 67; Lord Robens ldingham, 64; Major-General eginald Scoones, 74; Sir nder Sim, 69; Major- al G. N. Tuck, 73.

n College

Michaelmas half at Eton e closes today. There are oys leaving, including the n of the school, A. G. H. KS. The Rosebery history has been awarded to G. D. s, KS. In the final of the iation Football the Hon G. Aubyn's defeated Mr J. S. ake's by three goals to two. *ond half begins on January*

Find a buyer in The Times

ing 01-837 3311

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. R. Ashman and Mrs R. Y. Whiteaway

The engagement is announced between Neal Ashman, of Les Mal- poignes, Les Landes, Guernsey, and Rose Whiteaway, of Home House, Le Varclin, St Martin's, Guernsey.

Mr P. C. H. Balfour and Miss P. A. Auden

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs G. N. Balfour, of Mulwith Farm- *house, Skelton-on-Ure, Ripon,* Yorkshire, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D. E. Auden, of Danesgate, Repton, Derbyshire.

Mr H. G. Balfour and Mrs D. L. Griswold

The engagement is announced and the *marriage will shortly take* place between Hugh George Bal- four, of Oaklands, near Eden- bridge, Kent, and Bertha Rin, elder daughter of the late Mr and Mrs F. V. C. Livingstone-Learmonth, of Wheatley, Oxford, widow of Donald L. Griswold, of New York State, United States.

Mr R. Davidson and Miss D. E. Watkins

The engagement is announced be- tween Richard, elder son of Dr and Mrs Richard H. N. Davidson, of Toronto, Canada, and Dilys, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T. F. Watkins, of Salisbury, Wilt- shire.

Mr D. A. Hickling and Miss D. E. F. Langley

The engagement is announced *between David, younger son of Mr* and Mrs R. Hickling, of Oxted, Surrey, and Deborah, younger daughter of Mrs B. E. F. Langley and the late E. R. Langley, of Kensington, London.

Mr A. C. E. Kent and Miss A. F. B. Nurse

The engagement is announced between Anthony, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. C. Kent, and Avril, daughter of Mr and Mrs K. E. Nurse, of Frinton, Essex.

Mr P. J. Loveday and Miss J. E. R. Hodgkins

The engagement is announced be- tween Philip, younger son of Mr and Mrs Harold C. Loveday, of *Poppins, Ogbourne St George,* Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Jill, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John F. Hodgkins, of Stonesthrow, Stone Street, near Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr J. E. Newall and Mlle F. M. M. Milliot

The engagement is announced between John Betts, son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Newall, of Lausanne, and Françoise Monique Michelle, daughter of General and Mme Jean Milliot, of Paris.

Lieutenant B. B. Perowne, RN and Miss H. R. M. Wykes-Snevd

The engagement is announced between Benjamin Brian, elder son of Commodore and Mrs Ben Perowne, of Shortacre, Headley, Hampshire, and Honora Rose Mary, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs Roger Wykes-Sneyd, of Whitehouse Farm, Wissett, Suffolk.

Dr A. J. N. Shepherd and Miss D. M. Hayman

The engagement is announced between Alistair John Newbolt Shepherd, eldest son of Mr John A. Shepherd, surgeon, and Mrs Shepherd, of Haswell, Wirral, *Cheshire, and Diane Mary Hayman,* only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. V. T. Hayman, of Sherwood, Nottingham.

Flying Officer M. G. F. White, RAF, and Miss L. C. Hewitt

The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr G. White, Lyncroft, Dorking, Surrey, and the late Mrs M. White, and Claire, daughter of Mr P. D. Hewitt, Fell Lodge, Sunninghill, Berkshire, and Mrs J. F. C. Gallaher, Karachi, Pakistan.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Lord Greenwood of Rossendale to be deputy to Lord Goodman on the board of the Housing Corpora- tion. Six other new members have been appointed, including Father Paul Byrne, director of the Shelter housing aid centre.

Mr Peter Elstob, the English author and historian, to be gene- ral secretary of International PEN, the international association of writers, at its congress in Jerusa- lem.

Prison service

The following changes in prison service are announced:

Miss Olwen Parry, aged 42, deputy director in the north regional office, Manchester, to succeed Mrs Joanna Kolley, who is retiring, as assistant director of P4 Division at Prison De- partment headquarters.

Mr R. M. Dauncey, aged 51, governor at Feltham borstal, to be a deputy director in the north regional office and Mr Edwin V. R. Williams, aged 44, to take charge of Feltham borstal. Mr Eustace R. E. Skelton, aged 45, to be Kingston governor.

Mr W. Perrie, aged 56, governor at Long Lartin prison, to be governor of Birmingham prison. Mr Jack Williams, aged 49, to be governor at Long Lartin.

Mr D. F. *Dennis, aged 56, a governor* in P4 Division, to take charge of Port- land borstal. Mr Ian M. Dunbar, aged 40, governor of Usk borstal, to succeed Mr Dennis. Mr D. F. Campbell, aged 43, governor of Pollington borstal, near Goole, to be governor at Usk.

Today's engagements

The Duke of *Edinburgh lunches* with National Coal Board, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, 12.15; as patron and twelfth man, presents Lord's Taverners' county championship trophy to Worcestershire County Cricket Club, Buckingham Palace, 3.

The Duke of Kent, as patron, and the Duchess of Kent attend Leukaemia Research Fund's carol concert, Albert Hall, 7.25.

Exhibition of prints, drawings and paintings, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, 10-6.



Lance Corporal of Horse Steve Hague, left, and Trooper Gary Mawhinney, of the Household Cavalry, who have been awarded the Queens' Commendation for Brave Conduct for rescuing horses from a blazing *stable.*

Auction record price paid for superb pair of English flintlock pistols

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A *superb pair of English flint*lock holster pistols sent for sale by the Duchess of Westminster brought an auction record price of £78,000 at Sotheby's yesterday. The purchaser was Mr Howard Ricketts, the Bond Street dealer, who bought them on behalf of a collector. Sotheby's had been estimating £30,000-£35,000 in cautious style, while hoping for more.

The pistols are the work of Pierre Monlong and probably date from about 1690-1700. They are superbly worked with sheet silver, and gold inlay, while the chiselled steel locks and furniture in general are of marvellous quality. Mr Ricketts describes them as the finest pair of pistols sold at auction this century. There were several other bidders in the running over £70,000.

Monlong is recorded as the highest paid *Arquebusier de la Maison du Roi* at the court of Louis XIV. He fled to England as a Huguenot in 1684 and was appointed Gunmaker in Ordinary to William III in or after 1689. The sheer richness and quality of this pair of pistols make it vir- tually certain that they were made for the king.

The pistols were on loan to the Victoria and Albert museum from 1960 to 1970.

Otherwise, Sotheby's two sales of arms and armour saw prices holding well; this area has so far hardly been invaded by investors. Mr Ricketts also paid £12,500 for a pair of Saxon wheel-lock hol- ster pistols of about 1600. An anonymous buyer paid £9,000 for a pair of Brescian flintlock holster pistols of the late seventeenth cen- tury, and another anonymous pur- chaser £6,500 for a rare pair of Dutch double-barrelled ivory- stocked turn-over flintlock pistols, also of the late seventeenth century.

In a manuscript sale a large group of Siegfried Sassoon letters and postcards made £3,800 (estimate £5,000-£6,000). A group of D. H. Lawrence letters made £2,000 (estimate £2,500-£3,500). Sotheby's also held a sale of Chinese ceramics and works of art.

At Sotheby's Belgravia a minor sale of Victorian paintings record- ded virtually no lot unsold. A George Bernard O'Neill genre scene, "Love me, love my dog", made £800 (estimate £400-£800).

In *Christie's* sale of Japanese works of art a pair of lacquer robe chests of the Edo period made £4,410 (estimate £3,000) and a fine nineteenth-century lacquer *tansu made £1,575 (estimate £700).*

State pension scheme is criticized as inadequate

By a Staff Reporter

At least a million pensioners may be dependent on means-tested supplementary benefits even after the Government's proposed pen- sion scheme has fully matured in about 1998, Age Concern says in a memorandum, *published yester*day, on the White Paper *Better Pensions.*

The scheme, which would pay full benefits to those retiring 20 years after it had come into opera- tion, would do nothing for two million pensioners who rely on supplementary benefits at present to bring them up to the poverty line, Mr David Hobman, director of Age Concern, said. Even those young enough to benefit fully by the time they retired might find their pensions below supplement- ary benefit levels.

Those affected included an estimated 640,000 low-wage earners and their 80,000 dependants, at least 250,000 self-employed, who would get only the basic pension under the new scheme, and about 100,000 people who would not be entitled to a full pension because of incomplete contribution records.

*Age Concern urges the Govern*ment to replace its proposed two- tier base level and earnings- related graduated pension scheme by a single flat-rate pension, high enough to eliminate the need for means-tested benefits of any sort, and payable to all pensioners without regard to individual con- tribution levels and records.

Memorandum on the White Paper "Better Pensions" (Cmnd 5713), and a policy for a future state pension (Age Concern, National Old People's Welfare Council, Bernard Sunley House, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL. *No charge).*

Buckingham Palace luncheon

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday held a *luncheon at Buckingham Palace.* The guests were:

Miss Wendy Hiller (actress), the Rev Paul Rewrince Clifford (President, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham), Mr Justice Griffiths, Mr David Lean (film director), Sir Arnold Lindley (chair- man, Engineering and Industrial Training Board), Mr Michael Middleton (UK Secretary General, European Architectural Heritage Year 1975), Dr John Tanner (Director, Royal Air Force Museum), and Mr Desmond Taylor (editor, News and Current Affairs, BBC).

Latest wills

Mrs Georgette Rougier, of West- minster, the novelist Georgette *Heyer, left £67,337 net (duty paid,* £11,717), mostly to relatives.

Other estates include (net, before duty paid; further duty may be payable on some estates):

Cole, Mr John Holliday, of Wrib- benhall, Worcestershire, carpet manufacturer (duty paid, £96,281) £180,244

Luncheons

Saints and Sinners Club

The Saints and Sinners Club of London held a luncheon at the Dorchester hotel yesterday. Mr Cecil Redfern was in the chair and the other speakers were Mr Percy Hoskins, Mr Robert Morley, Mr Derek Nimmo and Mr Tom Arnold, MP. Among those present were:

The Marquess of Tavistock, Lord Thomas of Remenham, Lord Wake- field of Kendal, Lord Hirshfield, Mr Ray Gunter, Sir Desmond Plummer, *Sir William* Barnetson, Sir Emile Littler, Sir Bernard Delfont, Sir Percy Russ, Sir William Gunn, Sir Ronald Bowe, Sir Richard Thompson, Sir Gerald Glover, Sir Barkeley Cage, Sir Peter Hope, and Group Captain Douglas Bader.

Council of Engineering Institutions

The Council of Engineering Insti- tutions gave a luncheon yesterday, December 17, at the Dorchester hotel for the 1974 MacRobert award winners: Dr T. J. P. Pearce, Mr G. W. Bridger, Mr P. Davies, Dr J. T. Gallagher and Dr D. Cornhwaite, of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited. The host was Sir Leonard Arkinson, Chairman of CEI, and the guests included Lord Hinton of Bankside, Chairman of the MacRoberts Award Evaluation Committee, and Sir Jack Callard, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited.

HM Government

Mr Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign and Common- wealth Affairs was host yesterday at a luncheon at Lancaster House in honour of the Netherlands State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Among the guests were:

The Netherlands Ambassador, Lord Balogh, Lord Cole, Mr Cledwyn Hughes, MP, Sir George Waldenfeld, Sir James Barker, M. Do Hoop Scheffer, Mr F. A. McFadzean, Mr S. Britten and Mr Philip J. Allott.

HM Government

Miss Joan Lestor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at Admiralty House in honour of the High Commissioner for Grenada, and Mrs Gibbs. The other guests included:

The High Commissioner for Jamaica and Mrs Wint, Sir Duncan and Lady Watson, Mr Neil Marten, MP, Miss Gairy, Mr Sam Morris, Mr and Mrs R. H. Belcher, Mr Alan Gray, and Mr M. R. J. Guest.

GLC

The chairman of the Greater Lon- don Council was host at luncheon at County Hall yesterday. The guests included:

The High Commissioner for the Bahamas and Mrs. Braynen, the Luxembourg Ambassador, the Ambassador for the German Democratic Republic and Frau Kern, the Commonwealth Secretary- General and Mrs Smith and the mayors and mayoresses of Hammersmith and Newham.

Law Society

The president of the Law Society gave a luncheon party at 60 Carey Street yesterday at which the guests included:

The High Commissioner for New Zea- land, *Judge Sir Carl Aarvold, Sir* Thomas Skyrme, Mr Francis Pym, MP, Mr B. J. Collins, Mr T. Johnson, Mr E. N. Liggins, Mr J. M. Wickerson and Mr J. L. Bowron.

Receptions

HM Government

Mr Roy Hattersley, Minister of *State for Foreign and Common*wealth Affairs, was host yesterday at the Albery Theatre, and after- wards at a reception at the Bristol Hotel in honour of Mr L. J. Brink- horst, Netherlands State Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Shaikha Haya Al-Khalifa

The Ambassador of the State of Bahrain and Shaikha Haya Al- Khalifa held a reception at the Carlton Tower Hotel on Monday night on the occasion of National Day. Those present included am- bassadors and high commissioners, members of the Government, members of both Houses of Par- liament, representatives of bank- ing, commerce, industry and the universities and other friends of Bahrain.

Dinners

Mr G. R. Dowson

The Prince of Wales was present last night at a private dinner given by Mr Graham R. Dowson at 38 South Street, W1. Also pre- sent were:

Mr Godfrey Bilton, Mr Leslie Button, Squadron Leader David Checketts, Mr Laurence Graff, Mr Ramon Groene, Mr Geoffrey Kaye, Mr Henry Kaye, Mr Peter Lendrum, Mr David Lowis, Mr John O'Donnell, Mr Graham Pye, Mr Gerald Ronson, Mr J. Maldwyn Thomas, Mr Herbert Towning, Mr Jack Walker, and Mr Alan Watts.

Old Newcastilian Club

The *Centenary Year dinner* of the Old Newcastilian Club was held on Monday at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent. The presi- dent, Sir David Barritt, was in the chair. *Among the guests were:* The Right Rev F. S. Temple (Bishop of Malmesbury), Lord Robens of Woldingham, Mr J. S. Orme, Mr C. J. Boulton and Mr J. W. Donaldson (Headmaster, Newcastle-under-Lyme High School).

Weavers' Company

The Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and the City Marshal were present last night at a livery dinner of the Weavers' Company held at Vintners' Hall. Mr L. C. Winter- ton, upper bailiff, received the guests and proposed the civic toast, to which the Lord Mayor replied. The other speakers were Lord Brain and the Bishop of London.

Church news

Latest appointments include:

The Rev J. E. Burgess, Vicar of Keynsham, diocese of Bath and Wells, to be Archdeacon of Bath, same diocese.

The Right Rev J. R. G. Neale, Bishop Suffragan of Ramsbury, diocese of Salisbury, to be also Archdeacon of Wiltshire, same diocese.

Canon R. L. Sharp, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Weymouth, diocese of Salisbury, to be Archdeacon of *Dorset*, same diocese.

The Rev J. C. P. Barton, Vicar of Welling, diocese of Rochester, to be priest in charge of Malmesbury with Westport, diocese of Bristol.

The Rev P. G. C. Beck, Vicar of St Mark's, Brampton, diocese of Derby, to be priest in charge of St Michael and All Angels, Alvaston, same diocese.

The Rev D. A. Bowles, curate of St John the Baptist, Reigate, diocese of Southwell, to be chaplain on Ascension Island, diocese of St Helena, after train- ing at the USPG College of the Ascen- sion, Birmingham.

The Rev E. Bradbury, curate of All Saints', Falmouth, diocese of Truro, to be vicar of St Issey and St Petroc Minor, same diocese.

The Rev B. A. Carow, Royal Army Chaplains' Department, to be priest in charge of Great and Little Henny with Middleton, diocese of Chelmsford.

The Rev M. T. *Christian-Edwards,* Vicar of St Thomas's, Trowbridge and Rector of Wingfield, diocese of Salis- bury, to be priest in charge of St Paul's, Fisherton Anger, same diocese.

The Rev N. Crowder, Vicar of St John's Ryde, diocese of Portsmouth, to be diocesan director of religious edu- cation and a residentiary canon of Portsmouth Cathedral.

The Rev C. Cale, curate of St John the Baptist, *Gilborough,* diocese of Southwell, to be priest in charge of St John the Baptist, Colwick, same diocese.

The Rev T. F. Horsington, curate of St Luke's, Farnworth, Widnes, diocese of Liverpool, to be priest in charge of Llangarron with Llangrove and Garway, diocese of Hereford.

The Rev J. Hummerstone, curate of Halmsley, diocese of York, to be priest in charge of Manningford Bruce with Manningford Abbas, and later vicar in the Swanborough Team, diocese of Salisbury.

The Rev R. W. C. Jeffery, curate of Sarum St Michael, diocese of Salisbury, to be team vicar-designate of the Ridge- way Team ministry, same diocese.

The Rev J. Oldham, Vicar of Burton, diocese of Derby, to be Rector of the Buxton Team ministry, same diocese.

The Rev G. Parrett, priest in charge of St Francis parish of St Peter's, Gleethorpes, diocese of Lincoln, to be Rector of Withern, and priest in charge of the associated parishes, same diocese.

The Rev D. W. Perry, curate of Marton-in-Cleveland, diocese of York, to be Vicar of Sidbaugh with Long Riston, same diocese.

Canon D. R. Vicary, Headmaster of The King's School, Rochester, to be Precentor of Wells Cathedral.

The Rev M. O. West, Rector of Lydiard Millicent with Lydiard-Tregoz, diocese of Bristol, to be Vicar of Broage with Germoe, diocese of Truro.

Canon W. C. C. Williams, Rural Dean of Swansea, and Vicar of Llandilo Talybont, to be Vicar of Penllergaer, diocese of Swansea and Brecon.

Retirement

Canon N. J. Woodhall, Rector of Hamble, in the diocese of Winchester, January 31.

The Rev H. W. Crosthwaite has with- drawn his acceptance of the benefice of Monk Bretton, Barnsley, diocese of Wakefield.

Memorial services

Mr M. Benthall

A memorial service for Mr Michael Benthall was held at St Paul's, Covent Garden, yesterday. The Rev John Hester officiated. Mr Jonathan Benthall, Miss Barbara Jefford, Miss Judi Dench and Mr Paul Scofield gave readings and Mr Paul Rogers gave an address. Among others present were:

Sir Paul and Lady Benthall, Mr Richard Benthall, Mr James Benthall, Mrs Timothy Benthall, Mr John Garrati, Sir Robert Helpmann, Lady Morton, Lady Richardson, Sir Michael Redgrave, Sir John Russell (governor, Old Vic), Mr John Justin, Mr John Tooley (Royal Opera House), Mr Alec McCowen, Mr Peter Dunlop (Personnel Managers Association), Miss Margaret Rawlings (British Actors Equity), Miss Jane Edgeworth, Mr Norman Marshall (British Council), Mr Alfred Francis (Old Vic Trust), Mr Douglas Morris (Bristol Old Vic), Mr John Roberts (Central School of Speech and Drama), Mrs Dudgeon (Society of Authors), and Mrs Jones, Mr Jeremy Brett, Mr Tony Britton, Mr Arthur Marshall, Mr and Mrs Andrew Cruickshank, Mr Llewellyn Rees, Miss Peggy Mount, Mr Patrick Alison (Alison and Co), Mr Hamish Hamilton, Miss Tanya Moiseiwitsch, Miss Oliver (Vic-Wells Association), Miss Elspeth March, Miss M. Joseph (Gallery First Nighters' Club), Mr George Benson, Mr Rupert Marsh, Mr Dennis Andrews (Arts Council of Great Britain), Miss Con- stance Shacklock, Mr John Turner, Miss Hayter, and Mr Paul Finlay.

Major John Foley

A memorial and thanksgiving ser- vice for Major John Foley was held at St James's Church, Picca- dilly, yesterday. The Rector, the Rev William Baddeley, officiated, the lesson was read by Mr Len Crawley and an address was given by Mr Alan Campbell-Johnson.

University news

Dr W. J. H. Butterfield, DM, *Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham* University, is to be Regius Pro- fessor of Physic at Cambridge University, in succession to Pro- fessor J. S. Mitchell, who is retiring.

Oxford

The following elections and awards are announced:

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE: Special super- numary fellowship in music, A. C. Baines, MA, curator of the Bate Col- lection and lecturer in music.

BALLIOL COLLEGE: Official tutorial fellowship in economics, W. Becker- man, MA, DPhil, professor of political economy, University College London.

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE: Scholarships: College scholarship in English: Susan M. L. Dasford, Bedford HS; Bentley scholarship in jurisprudence, Claire E. H. Dillon, St Paul's; Rose Hovey Scholarship in physics, Alison E. Ingham, Godolphin and Latymer S; Bousfield scholarship in philosophy, politics and economics, Jill K. Rutter, Croydon HS. Exhibitions: College exhi- bition in modern languages, Jane Booth, Wirral GS; Coombe exhibitions, classics, Judith A. Elias, Headington S; English, Katherine Fentaugh, Sutton HS; Rosalind P. Sharpe, Cosforth HS; music, Helen R. Gainford, Regis S, Tettenhall; Janet Watson exhibition in classics, Elissa M. Lewis, Stamford Univ.

Birmingham

Latest appointments include:

M. Jolley, BSc, PhD, and K. F. Lang- ley, BSc, PhD (Bath), to be research fellows in chemistry.

The Wallace Collection

During the Christmas holiday the Wallace Collection will be closed to the public on December 24, 25 and 26, and will reopen at 10 am on December 27. The collection will also be closed on January 1, 1975.

King George's Jubilee Trust

The Queen has appointed the Prince of Wales to be chairman of the administrative council of King George's Jubilee Trust (For Youth) in succession to the late Duke of Gloucester.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as presi- dent of the National Playing Fields Association, will attend the world premiere of *The Man with the Golden Gun* at the Odeon, Leicester Square, in aid of the National Playing Fields Associa- tion, the Stars Organization for Spastics, and the Variety Club Heart Fund, tomorrow.

25 years ago

From The Times of Saturday, December 17, 1949.

Communists out

From Our Labour Correspondent

Mr Arthur Deakin, general secre- tary of the Transport and General Workers Union, gave details yester- day evening of action taken by his national executive, which has been meeting throughout this week, on the decisions of the biennial conference that no Com- munist or Fascist shall be eligible to hold office in the union.

Of the 560 full-time officers of the union, he said, 551 had signed declarations that they were not Communists or Fascists. The remaining nine will be "given notices terminating their employ- ment a month after next Monday.

As no one can stand for the committees of the union, for which elections are now going on, with- out signing the declaration, Mr Deakin said that by next March there would be no Communist or Fascist holding office in the union.

OBITUARY

MR ALEXANDER WALLACE
Leading plastic surgeon

Mr Alexander Burns Wallace, CBE, who died suddenly on December 14, was a plastic sur- geon of international renown. This position he achieved not only because of his technical skill but also by virtue of his integrity, character and devo- tion to duty.

In many ways he was the supreme example of the special- ist who never became lost in the technicality of his job. The patient always came first; he was never a "case" but always a human being.

Above all he always resisted any attempt to prostitute his speciality. In plastic surgery this was a particularly valuable attribute, for there was a time when it threatened to be domin- ated by the more exuberant *money-grubbing exponents* of cosmetic surgery.

Face lifting, abolition of wrinkles, straightening of noses, unnecessary plastic operations on the breast, particularly for those to whom money was no consideration—none of these *would Wallace tolerate.*

Plastic surgery in his opinion was a serious branch of surgery which should devote itself to the service of those in whom plastic surgery was of real prac- tical and psychological assist- ance, whether it was the victim of burns, road or industrial accidents, or congenital deform- ity. For these he had an infinite compassion and would labour for them morning, noon and night.

A graduate of Edinburgh University where he qualified in 1929, he proceeded to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1932. Apart from a happy spell as a demonstrator in surgery in McGill University, Montreal, where incidentally he graduated MSc, he spent his entire pro- fessional career in Edinburgh, as surgeon in charge of the plastic and jaw injuries unit at Bangour Hospital, assistant sur- geon at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and Reader in Plastic Surgery at Edinburgh University.

He also served a term as president of the British Associa- tion of Plastic Surgeons. Such was his international reputation that he was appointed general secretary of the International Society of Burn Injuries, an aspect of plastic surgery in which he had for long been a leading figure, and the Univer- sity of Upsaala made him an honorary MD in 1970.

It was typical of his zest for life and his refusal to give in, that when a cerebral vascular episode finally forced him to retire from other work, and settle in Fife, about four years ago, he not only continued to run the secretariat of the Inter- national Society of Burn Injur- ies but also matriculated at St Andrews University and gradu- ated PhD 18 months ago.

In addition, at the time of his death, he was busy on an historical project of the Edin- burgh Surgical School of the nineteenth century in relation to plastic surgery.

JOHN GODOLPHIN BENNETT

Mr John Godolphin Bennett died on Friday at the age of 77.

He was born on June 8, 1897, and educated at King's School, Wimbledon, RMA Woolwich, and the School of Military Engi- neering, Chatham.

He saw service in the RE Signals towards the end of the First World War and from 1919 to 1922 was engaged in military intelligence in the Near East.

From 1929 to 1950 he was involved in solid fuel research and became first director of the British Coal Utilization Research Association. During the latter part of his life he was concerned with research of a rather differ- ent order, occupying himself with inquiries into the inter- relation of history, religion, philosophy and the problems confronting modern man. He was the author of *The Crisis in Human Affairs; What are we Living For?; The Dramatic Universe; and Concerning Subud.*

Mr Alick Bartholomew writes:

To understand what John Bennett accomplished, one must acknowledge the vision of G. I. Gurdjieff, who insisted that man has become totally blind to what is real. Bennett, who could easily have had a bril- liant future as a scientist, be- came one of the principal teachers of Gurdjieff's and Ouspensky's ideas for the trans- formation of man.

An individualist and a maverick, he believed that a teaching will become devoid of life unless new insights are con- stantly found to renew its re- levance.

Those who worked closely with him 20 years ago at *Coombe Springs in Kingston* upon Thames, knew Bennett as a person of great authority, im- patient of human weaknesses, although students found even then that he frequently under- stood a question they could not form. In the intervening years he underwent a remarkable transformation, which was not mere mellowing.

It was as if he exemplified G's teaching, that Grace may come as a result of conscious labour and intentional suffer- ing. His example to others was always inspiring; he was without guile, but had im- *mense compassion. All those* who knew him well were aware that he had developed an ex- traordinary inner life, yet he gave of himself unstintingly for others.

To many, John Bennett seemed almost superhuman. In the last four years he em- barked upon a series of far- sighted and ambitious projects. The remarkable experiment in adult education at Sherborne in Gloucestershire has spawned a similar project in the United States.

Bennett foresaw times of chaos in the near future, which civilization could survive only through the existence of self- sufficient communities of people initiated in realistic techniques of creative transfor- mation. He lived to see the first of these, at Claymont, near Washington, DC.

A charismatic leader, bril- liant lecturer and teacher, he succeeded in almost totally transcending the preoccupation with self. Clearly, his religion was the brotherhood of man; he was equally at home with a Sufi, a Buddhist, or a Roman Catholic. Thousands all over the world have found their lives changed through his teaching, and many more have been influenced by his many books, the last of which, *The Masters of Wisdom,* is to be published posthumously.

Lady Robins, widow of the first and last Baron Robins, KBE, DSO, sometime president of the British South Africa Company has died. She was Mary, daughter of Philip Wroughton and she was married in 1912. Her husband died in 1962.

Commander John Patrick Fisher, MVO, who was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Wiltshire in 1970, died on December 9. He was 47.

M HENRI de MONFREID
Writer and adventurer

M Henri de Monfreid, writer, novelist, self-confessed smuggler and adventurer, sometimes *called "the French Lawrence* of Arabia" for his exploits in Ethiopia and around the Red Sea in the 1930s, has died at his home at Ingrandes in the Indre, at the age of 95.

De Monfreid was banned from entering Ethiopia by the *then Emperor Haile Selassie in* 1932, the year he began to write the first of more than 70 books, *Les Secrets de la Mer Rouge,* based on his intimate know- ledge of that country and the Red Sea coast acquired after "feeling" Europe, and landing *at Djibouti in 1910.*

He started to write after his experiences as a coffee trader, gun-runner and organizer of trading caravans into the in- terior, when he met M Joseph Kessel, then preparing a book on the slave trade from Africa to Arab countries. He then pub- lished *Vers des Terres Hostiles d'Ethiope* and *La Croisière du Haschisch* based on his experi- ences trafficking with his own boat in the Red Sea.

A self-declared enemy of the Negus, de Monfreid returned to Ethiopia *only after Mussolini's* conquest, settling there as a coffee planter. In 1940 he was arrested by the British and spent 10 months in prison in Kenya. Later he was released and lived out the war years in the White Highlands as a game hunter.

De Monfreid, recalling the trafficking in drugs and arms in an interview he gave only months before his death, re- marked that he suspected that was "why the Académie Fran- çaise had declined to honour" him, although his books in the late 1930s enjoyed not only popular success but also esteem from their anthropolo- gical interest.

He failed to enter the École sillon; his father was a painter and engraver of Catalan origin who was a close friend of Gau- guin. While a schoolboy in Paris, he often saw in his father's studio Impressionist painters like Toulouse-Lautrec and Edgar Dégas.

He failed to enter the Ecole *Polytechnique and his career as* an adventurer in the Red Sea did not begin until after he had worked for several years as an industrial chemist. In 1958, aged 79, de Monfreid went off with his son to sail in a small boat to Mauritius; he spent 10 days at sea drifting off Madaga- scar when its engine failed.

MR ALAN STERN

Mr Alan Henry Stern, who died on Thursday at the age of 90, was born on February 9, 1884, at Hove, Sussex. At a young age his temperament re- belled against the routine of business life, and he started his work in portrait painting. Spy influenced his early work but he later changed to straight portraiture.

For more than 50 years his work was published in journals such as the *Graphic, Bystander, Vanity Fair,* and *John o'London.* This connexion brought him in contact with some of the most *distinguished people of the* period. He received sittings from royalty, and many people associated with the arts, the Services, and society, were also among his sitters.

Later he contributed to *The Times* in which among others were published portraits of Augustus John and Charles Cundall. In his eighty-first year he held an exhibition of por- traits of People of Chelsea.

For your CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

THESE CAUSES URGENTLY SEEK YOUR AID THIS CHRISTMAS

WE CARE FOR SIXTY SERIOUSLY DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN. Please help *The Queen Alexandra Hospital* Home to maintain a permanent home for these men of both world wars. *Do not forget them.*

GLAD stands for the Disabled: clubs, home care, research, training - the lot! This vital work, urgently needs funds. Please WILL YOU help the Greater London Association for the Disabled.

MERRY CHRISTMAS will be just empty words to many of our children so please help us to bring them what comfort and happiness we can. The MALCOLM SARGENT CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN.

SOCIETY for ASSISTANCE OF LADIES IN REDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES gives financial help to many ladies suffering hardship, relieving anxiety and distress among the elderly and infirm. A cause worthy of your support.

DISABLED SAILORS, SOL- DIERS AND AIRMEN find shelter at the Star and Garter Home which as an independ- ent organisation relies on public support. Please help to meet ever increasing costs.

DOCKLAND SETTLE- MENTS appeal to SCOTS- MEN and others to subscribe towards physical sporting and constructive activities for many of Glasgow's young people. £85,000 still required towards cost of £130,000. Centres.

Donations and corres- pondence sent c/o Charities Aid Foundation, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD will be immediately forwarded to and acknow- ledged by the charity of your choice.

CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION

advises and helps companies and individual benefactors in the systematic administration of tax-free support for charities.

Science report

Obstetrics: Drugs in pregnancy

Drug-monitoring programmes *set up throughout the world after* the thalidomide disaster are still turning up evidence of new unsus- pected associations between drug- taking early in pregnancy and birth abnormalities. The first few weeks of pregnancy are the most hazardous, and the safest policy for doctors now seems to be that they should prescribe no drugs for women of child-bearing age except where adequate contraceptive pre- cautions are being taken.

The latest account of drug- associated abnormalities has come from California University and suggests that two widely used *minor tranquillizers, meprobamate* and chlordiazepoxide, may in- crease the risk of foetal abnormal- ity when taken early in pregnancy. The study, based on nearly 20,000 pregnancies among women in east San Francisco, compared the incidence of severe birth abnormal- ities in four groups: those taking meprobamate, those on chlordiaze- poxide, those taking other drugs, and women who took no drugs in early pregnancy. There were no striking differences between the groups, but the women taking the tranquillizers during the first six weeks of pregnancy had three to four times the rate of foetal ab- normality found in the other groups. After the first six weeks of pregnancy the drugs had no obvious adverse effect on its out- come.

The usual rate of birth abnormal- ities is known to be of the order of two or three cases in every hundred births and the increase in that risk associated with the use *of tranquillizers* was very small and not statistically significant until the data were divided on the basis of the time in pregnancy the drug was taken.

As the report emphasizes, the findings are no more than suggest- ive but they provide further support for the view that no drug can be regarded as absolutely safe in the early weeks of pregnancy. The women who had been taking tranquillizers at that stage had usually had them prescribed by a doctor who had been unaware of the pregnancy—and in many cases presumably the woman had not been pregnant at the time prescription was made.

Radiologists now accept that they

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY "Afore ye go"

Stock Exchange Prices

Widespread gains in golds

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Dec 23. § Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY "Afore ye go"

BRITISH FUNDS

1973/74 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
95¾	92¾	Treas 8¾ 1975	93½	..	6.036	10.531
99⅝	93½	Treas 8¾ 1975	98¾	..	8.102	11.243
95⅛	88⅞	Savings 3½ 1965-75	94½	+⅛	3.166	11.483
96½	88	Exch 6½% 1976	93⅞	+⅛	6.934	12.154
84¼	86	Treas 8½% 1976	91⅛	+⅛	7.675	12.048
98¾	95	Victory 4% 1976	97	..	4.124	8.449
99¾	94½	Treas 10½% 1976	96⅝	+⅛	10.939	12.119
91⅞	85¾	Treas 6¾% 1977	89¾	+⅛	7.008	11.835
89⅞	81¼	Elec 3½ 1974-77	87⅝	..	3.417	9.187
99½	95¾	Treas 11½% 1977	96⅞	+⅛	11.571	12.557
86⅝	77⅛	Trans 4½ 1972-77	85½	..	4.978	9.680
101⅛	86½	Treas 9¾ 1978	90½	..	9.944	12.670
88½	75¾	Exch 5¾ 1976-78	79¾	..	6.389	11.804
76¾	69½	Treas 3½ 1979	72½	..	4.138	10.305
97⅜	92	Treas 11¼% 1979	94⅞	+⅛	12.121	13.109
81⅞	69¼	Elec 4½% 1974-79	74½	..	5.708	11.308
78	67½	Elec 3¾% 1976-79	72¾	..	4.918	11.314
100⅝	81⅞	Treas Cav 9% 1980	85¾	+⅛	10.847	13.671
83¾	69¾	Fund 5¼% 1978-80	71⅞	+⅛	7.311	12.501
75½	64½	Treas 3½% 77-80	67½	..	3.965	11.192
72¾	61½	Treas 3½% 79-81	65⅞	..	5.329	11.267
87¾	72½	Treas 8¾% 1980-82	73½	+¼	11.645	14.438
97½	87½	Treas. 12½ 1982	98	..	14.130	15.273
80⅝	58¾	Fund 3½% 1983-84	53	+¼	9.257	13.352
95½	61¾	Treas 8½% 1984-86	62½	+¼	13.491	15.479
81½	51¼	Fund 4½% 1985-87	52½	..	12.567	15.338
87½	57	Treas 7¾% 1985-88	57¾	..	14.182	16.170
54½	32	Trans 3½ 1978-88	33½	..	8.530	14.018
68¾	39½	Treas 5¾ 1986-89	40¾	+¼	12.153	14.225
90¾	53½	Treas 8¾% 1987-90	54½	..	15.231	16.540
72½	41½	Fund 3¾% 1987-91	42⅜	..	13.960	15.986
72¾	40¾	Fund 4% 1993	41½	..	15.022	16.373
69½	54¾	Treas 9% 1994	55¾	..	16.526	17.088
55¾	29¾	Redmptn 3½% 1986-96	31	..	11.382	13.635
47⅞	29¾	Treas 3½ 1990-95	29¾	..	11.770	13.267
94½	75¼	Treas 12¾% 1995	79½	..	17.071	17.251
56½	55	Treas 9¾ 1992-96	55¾	..	16.811	17.266
75¾	46⅝	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	47½	..	16.563	17.117
94¾	53⅜	Treas 8¾% 1997	54¾	..	16.902	17.274
98¾	54¾	Treas 9¼% 1999	55½	..	16.934	17.265
43⅝	23¾	Fund 3½% 1999-04	25½	..	15.217	15.824
46¾	26⅞	Treas 8% 2002-06	48¾	..	17.166	17.222
67⅛	35¾	Treas 5% 2004-12	36	..	16.926	16.984
39¾	20¾	Treas 2½ 2012-15	21	..	17.268	17.268
40¾	22½	Consols	24¼	..	..	..
38¾	20⅝	War Ln 3½%	20⅝	..	17.109	..
37	20¾	Conv 3½%	20¾	..	16.378	..
31½	17⅜	Treas 3%	17½	..	17.499	..
25¾	14	Consols 2½%	14¼	..	16.642	..
26¾	14¾	Treas. 2½% Aft 75	14¾	..	17.560	..

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

97¼	85½	Aust	92½	70-75	97¼	..	2.569 17.270
86½	73¼	Aust	85½	76-78	78¾	..	7.117 14.334
82½	65½	Aust	81½	77-80	66¾	..	8.577 15.297
78¾	58½	Aust	80½	81-82	58	..	9.315 15.303
79¾	58½	Aust	80½	81-83	56	..	10.777 15.321
82¾	62	Aust	84½	77-84	85¾	..	9.821 15.302
89½	67½	Aust	77½	79-81	68	..	10.621 15.303
100	88	Berlin	49½	Ass	88	..	.. ..
98	87	Ceylon	47½	73-75	98	..	4.326 17.121
94	80	Chilean Mixed			94	..	.. ..
74¾	60	S African	84½	77-83	63¾	..	11.028 16.273
157	129	German	45½	1930	152	..	.. ..
38	23	Hungary	47½	1924	23	..	.. ..
36½	30¾	Ireland	73½	81-83	32¾	..	.. ..
98¾	73½	Jamaica	74½	77-79	77	..	9.358 14.632
130	95	Japan	Ass 4½	1910	130	..	.. ..
97	73	Japan	4½	83-88	95	..	.. ..
73¾	52½	Kenya	5½	78-82	54½	..	9.519 16.551
85¾	66	Malaya	70½	78-82	68	..	11.467 15.353
85¾	67¼	N Z	69½	76-80	68½	..	9.003 15.588
89¾	85½	N Z	86½	75-78	92¾	..	6.580 14.012
98¾	77	N Z	76½	80-83	77½	..	8.126 12.371
85¼	54	N Z	71¾	83-86	54¾	..	13.718 16.388
78¾	62½	N Rhd	69½	78-81	62½	..	9.035 14.667
77¾	62½	Nyasa	69½	78-81	62½	..	9.526 15.490
99	78	Peru	6½	Ass	97	..	.. ..
93¾	82½	S A Gov	52½	74-76	88¾	..	.. ..
81	58	S Rhd	72½	68-70	62	..	.. ..
45	26	S Rhd	49½	87-92	29	..	.. ..
62	34	S Rhd	69½	78-81	53	..	.. ..
53	43	Spanish	46½		53	..	.. ..
75¾	55	Tanz	54½	78-82	56¾	..	10.496 16.812
74	54	Uruguay	39½		73	..	.. ..

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

30¾	15½	L C C	3½	1920	16¾	..	18.612 ..
74	50	L C C	5½	50-53	50¾	..	10.055 16.243
74	48	L C C	5½	52-54	49¾	..	9.817 15.857
74¾	48¾	L C C	5½	53-54	49¾	..	11.303 16.272
70	39¾	L C C	5½	55-57	49¾	..	13.537 17.213
89¾	74	L C C	6½	73-78	78¾	..	7.670 14.891
85½	68	L C C	6½	76-79	69½	..	8.631 15.353
87½	71	L C C	6½	77-80	82½	..	15.733 17.423
92¾	83	G L C	6½	1976	89¾	..	14.545 14.081
90¾	80	G L C	6½	1977	85¾	..	7.575 14.356
77¾	63	G L C	6½	90-92	63¾	..	16.295 17.709
93¾	78½	G L C	7½	1977	86½	..	8.583 14.454
104¾	81	G L C	8½	80-82	74	..	13.130 15.776
93¾	73¾	C of L	6½	75-78	75¾	..	8.469 14.398
83	57½	C of L	6½	80-82	58	..	11.115 16.235
90¾	56¾	Ag Mt	7½	81-84	57¾	..	14.089 17.518
84½	45	Ag Mt	7½	91-93	45½	..	17.814 18.688
75½	60½	Ag Mt	6½	85-90	61	..	16.907 18.791
73¾	57	Belfast	6½	77-80	57½	..	11.457 19.073
88¾	70¾	Brighton	7½	76-79	72½	..	8.963 15.281
93¾	84½	Bristol	7½	74-75	94½	..	7.417 13.791
95½	85½	Bucks	5½	1975	94½	..	5.533 14.114
89¾	72	Camden	6½	77-79	73	..	8.901 15.418
86	62	Croydon	6½	78-81	62½	..	10.910 16.107
89½	71¾	Edin	6½	77-79	73¾	..	8.570 15.430
101½	69¾	Glasgow	9½	81-82	70¾	..	13.350 16.371
81	71	Gwinct	6½	76-78	77	..	8.788 15.268
90¾	78½	Herts	6½	76-77	83½	..	8.084 14.530
95	85	Liverpl	5½	71-75	94½	..	5.843 14.025
91½	78½	Liverpl	7½	76-77	83¾	..	8.362 14.387
38¾	18¾	Met Water B			18½	..	17.039 17.729
78	69¾	N I	6½	78-80	69	..	10.787 19.177
76	48	N I	6½	82-84	48½	..	14.639 18.570
78¾	52¾	N I Elec	6½	81-83	52¾	..	12.735 18.261
91	74¾	Notts	6½	76-78	77½	..	8.711 14.938
88	67½	Sthend	5½	77-79	70	..	7.497 15.347
81	65¾	Swark	6½	83-86	69	..	13.987 17.040
84½	65¼	Surrey	6½	78-80	65¾	..	9.205 16.087

FOREIGN STOCKS

32	19½	Bayer	£30½		19½	4.5	17.2
965	580	Commerzbank	£76		46	27.6	3.0 25.3
21¾	12¾	Cp Fn Paris	£16½		..	61.4	4.9 8.8
40	28	EBES	£37½		..	172	4.6 ..
33½	18½	Ericsson	£30¾		..	32.9	1.7 17.9
41	20	Finsider	30		..	..	.. ..
25	13	Granges	£25		..	90.4	3.6 9.6
360	200	Hoechst	337		..	14.3	4.4 20.5
85	29	Montecatini E	55		..	..	.. ..
17½	10¾	NEPO NV	£16½		..	73.2	4.4 29.4
467	312	Robeco 1.5	340		..	28.5	5.3 35.9
300	202	Rollinco Subs fl 5	249		+9	9.3	1.3 48.1
240	75	Sain Viscosa	140		..	4.9	3.5 ..
405	200	Thyssen-Huette	380		..	16.6	4.4 15.5
28½	15½	Volkswagen	£21		..	..	.. ..

DOLLAR STOCKS

11¼	6	Brascan	£6		..	43.8	6.6 4.1
10⅜	5½	BP Canada	£6		..	..	.. ..
977	687	Can Fac Otd	933		+31	35.6	3.8 13.4
11	5⅝	El Paso	£8¾		+⅛	41.7	6.0 13.0
54¾	38¾	Exxon Corp	44		..	..	.. ..
21½	9¼	Ford	£14½		..	8.6	0.6 49.3
28	14¾	Hollinger	£15¾		..	..	.. ..
30¾	11¾	Hud Bay Off	£13¾		+¼	28.9	2.4 23.0
15½	8	Husky Oil	£9½		..	..	.. ..
835	425	Int Hldgs	430		-10	12.1	2.8 ..
22½	12	Int Nickel	£13¾		..	58.3	4.2 10.3
14¾	9¾	IU Int	£9½		..	26.7	5.9 6.3
14¾	9½	Kaiser Alum	£9¾		..	41.9	4.8 ..
13¾	7¾	Massey-Ferg	£8½		..	32.9	5.7 6.7
23	9½	Pacific Petrol	£9¾		..	..	.. ..
905	445	Pan Canadian	532		..	..	.. ..
198	54	Steep Rock	54		..	..	.. ..
1733	1434	Trans Can P	£23		-2	..	.. ..
28¾	13	US Steel	£15½		..	..	.. ..
700	330	White Pass	390		..	15.3	3.9 7.4
17½	10	Zapata Corp	£16¼		..	16.7	1.0 9.4

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

275	130	Alexn Discount	130		..	15.2	11.7 18.4
10	2	Allen H & Ross	£2		..	5.2	2.6 ..
430	95	Arb-Latham	95		..	10.8	11.9 4.5
459	110	Aust & NZ	168		+8	13.6b	8.1 4.0
370	145	B Kuwait Int	160		..	..	.. ..
438¾	175	Bk of Ireland	183		..	29.0	10.6 2.1
33	22	Bk Leumi Israel	22		..	1.4	6.5 4.7
215	162½	Bk Leumi UK	180		..	10.6	5.8 11.6
240	210	Bk of NSW	240		+10	17.4	8.2 7.1
35¾	13½	Bk of N Scotia	£24		..	57.6	2.4 25.9
352	105	Bk of Scotland	112		..	13.4	11.1 3.9
49¾	18¾	Bks Trst NY	£24		..	128	6.3 9.0
468	110	Barclays Bank	118		+2	11.8	10.0 6.0
337	17	Bates S Hldgs	20		..	7.5	37.5 2.0
370	65	Brown Shipley	70		..	10.5b	15.1 3.3
174	14	Burston Grp	14		..	5.0	35.4 1.5
418	68	Cater Ryder	70		..	11.1	15.8 ..
90	11	Cedar Hldgs	13		..	2.0	15.4 6.2
214	164	Chase Man	£182		..	101	5.6 8.4
258	164	Citicorp	£182		..	28.6	.. 21.2
298	185	Com Bk of Aust	198		..	5.7b	8.6 4.0
240	140	Comm Bk of Syd	140		..	9.4	5.3 8.4
22	13¾	CC De France	£18		..	57.0	8.2 15.2
100	9½	First Nat Fin	9		..	2.9	63.2 0.6
87	6	Fraser Ans	6		..	1.1	18.5 4.1
390	175	Gerrard & Nat	178		+6	17.0	9.6 11.4
135	23	Gillett	23		-3	3.5	15.3 ..
500	35	Gillett Bros	38		..	3.5	4.8 ..
285	62	Guinness Peat	65		..	10.6	16.2 3.3
97	7	Hambros $10	$7		..	10.9b	11.2 ..
805	60	Do Ord	68		+½	10.9b	17.2 2.4
459	110	Hill Samuel	128		+4	13.1	17.5 6.6
3395	105	Hong K & Shang	122		+2	5.2b	4.3 13.7
365	220	Israel Brit	220		..	15.0	6.8 4.5
120	43	Jessel Toynbee	43		..	8.2	19.1 ..
295	35	Keyser Ullmann	36		+½	7.2	20.1 ..
84	29	King & Shaxson	30		..	4.3	14.5 8.9
197	53	Lazard Bros	53		..	4.5	13.7 3.6
361	92	Lloyds Bank	180		..	9.7	9.7 2.2
238	34	Mercury Secs	34		..	3.9	11.4 2.8
500	115	Midland	238		+½	14.3	11.7 6.1
218	152	Minster Assets	152		..	3.9	21.5 2.1
247	35	Nat & Grind	36		..	4.9	14.1 7.7
230	105	Nat of Aust	195		..	7.7	3.9 10.2
108	24	Nat Com Bk Grp	28		..	3.6	11.8 9.0
470	90	Nat W'minster	90		..	11.8	12.1 6.7
42	18½	Ottoman	£18½		..	140	7.2 11.7
190	85	Rea Bros	85		..	5.5	3.0 14.6
22¾	14½	Royal of Can	£17¾		..	60.6	2.9 21.2
836	115	Schroders	115		..	11.8	10.2 3.8
360	170	Secombe Mar	170		..	18.7	11.0 10.8
283	32	Slater Walker	34		..	7.7	22.6 2.1
195	38	Smith St Aubyn	42		..	3.7	11.9 ..
697	150	Stand'd & Chart	208		..	19.3	9.4 3.8
320	150	Union Discount	155		..	15	4.8 ..
208	81	Wintrust	81		..	3.9	7.7 4.3

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

110	31	Allied	33½		..	4.2b	12.5 5.1
117	41	Sam Chargton	47		+2	5.6	11.7 5.3
287	70	Bell	75		..	7.6	10.1 ..
127	34	Beddingtons	36		..	3.9	10.9 5.5
116	27	Brown M.	28		..	3.6	14.0 4.4
118	28	Burtonwood	28		..	3.4	13.8 3.2
1664	40	Cameron J.W.	44		..	4.4	11.3 4.4
64	30	C of L Dfd	32		..	3.8b	12.3 11.7
98	40	Devenish	40		..	6.7	11.7 4.8
172	63	Distillers	68		..	7.6	11.1 9.9
110	22	Greenall	23		..	2.8	12.2 4.5
240	73	Greene King	283		..	6.1	7.2 7.1
181	57	Guinness	63		+1	6.8	10.7 5.4
130	50	Hardys & H'sons	50		..	7.0	14.0 5.1
200	63	Highland	84		..	7.0	11.0 5.1
48	18	Invergordon	18		..	2.5	11.1 4.4
94	34	Irish Distillers	34		..	3.3	9.6 4.1
185	52	Long John Int	53		..	7.2	13.5 4.1
66	18	Marston	18		..	2.0	10.2 4.8
500	100	Morland & Co	100		+10	14.2	14.2 5.8
124	22	Scot & Newcastle	24		..	3.6	14.9 5.1
264	16	Seagram	£21½		..	34.1	2.6 24.7
129½	51	SA Breweries	74½		..	5.2	2.6 7.6
495	90	Teacher	100		+10	12.3	12.3 3.3
290	57	Tollemache	57		..	5.9	8.8 8.0
84	40	Tomatin	40		..	4.1	10.3 5.2
456	102	Vaux	105		..	17.8	17.3 5.2
100	31½	Whitbread 'A'	32		+½	4.1	11.7 5.0
100½	52½	Do B	32½		+½	4.1	11.6 5.0
198	46	Whitbread Inv	48		..	8.2	16.7 9.2
240	54	Wolverhampton	55		+1	6.5	11.9 5.4

1973/74 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div Yld %	P/E
Investment Dollar Premium 46½% (50½%). Premium Conversion Factor 0.6653.						

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL A—B

1973/74 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div	Yld %	P/E
262	30	AAH	52	..	11.6	22.3	3.7
140	22	AB Electronic	23	..	6.1	27.0	1.8
52	36	AC Cars	38	..	1.7	4.3	9.5
116½	43	AD Intl	45½	+½	3.3	6.5	4.9
110½	15	AGE Research	16	..	3.0	18.9	2.7
315	98	APV Hldgs	100	+2	13.0	13.0	4.3
114	21	AVP Ind	21	..	2.2	15.3	2.7
158	13	Aaronson Bros	16	..	2.3	13.9	2.3
78	16	Abbey Panels	18	..	4.0	35.0	1.7
188½	40	Acrow	45	..	5.2	11.6	7.2
136½	22½	Do A	27	+½	5.2	19.3	4.3
39	15	Adams Food	17	+½	1.3	7.9	8.6
53	7	Adda Int	8	..	1.1	13.5	2.9
211	57	Advest Group	59	+½	8.5	14.9	3.3
72	9	Aeron't & Gen	9	..	1.5	16.9	4.4
128	70	Airfix Ind	73	..	4.0	5.6	8.4
120	88	Do NV	90	+½	4.0	13.4	3.8
43	20	Albright & W	36	..	5.3	14.8	4.7
101½	55	Alcan 10½%	£85½	..	1050	18.9	..
97½	54	Do 9% Cov	£86	..	900	16.5	..
38	25	Allen E.	28	..	4.3	15.7	3.4
37	17	Allen W. G.	17	..	3.5	20.4	4.4
265	162	Alliance Alders	162	..	1.6	9.8	4.5
163½	35	Allied Colloids	35	..	2.1	6.0	4.4
52	24	Allied Plast	25	..	1.1	9.2	3.7
116	30	Allied Polymer	31½	..	5.8	18.5	4.0
9	7	Alpine Hldgs	9	..	..	..	..
207	123	Amal Metal	132	..	16.0	12.0	3.8
167	15	Amal Power	16½	+½	4.3	25.9	1.5
29	19	Amber Day	19	..	1.9	10.2	2.6
87	28	Anchor Chem	28	..	5.2	18.5	3.9
101	55	Anderson Strath	90	..	5.6	11.2	3.4
48	5	Anglian Food	5	..	0.5	10.4	16.1
460	95	Anglo Amer Ind	460	..	20.0	..	..
84	24	Ang Swiss Hldgs	24	..	4.4	17.1	4.5
128	53	Anglo-Thai Corp	96	..	1.8	1.8	4.5
120	13	Anglovest	13	..	2.3	8.4	4.0
83	28	Angwin & Co	28	..	2.5	20.1	3.0
110	32	Aquascutum 'A'	32	..	2.5	14.7	3.2
137	32	Arlington Mtr	32	..	2.8	8.8	4.7
30	30	Armitage Shanks	30	..	9.2	30.6	3.1
325	80	Arnold Laing	80	..	3.0	3.8	11.9
34	24	Ash Spinning	24	..	3.4	12.5	3.6
63	33	Asprey 6½% Pf	34	..	6.3	18.4	..
130	18	Ass Biscuit	19	..	3.3	14.9	3.2
111	5	Do A	5	..	3.3	17.2	3.2
25	4½	Ass Brit Eng	4½	..	..	7.8	..
221	20½	Ass Brit Food	22½	..	2.2	9.4	4.2
32	20½	Ass Engineer	20½	..	3.9	21.9	3.8
101	55	Ass Fisheries	55	..	5.0	11.2	3.4
102	49	Ass Food	50	..	5.6	11.2	3.4
53	19	Ass Leisure	19	..	2.3	11.6	2.7
235	52	Ass News	52	..	8.2	10.5	3.5
233	61	Ass Paper	61	..	10.4	15.6	3.2
134	26	Ass Tel 'A'	27	..	5.8	25.1	3.1
233	61	Ass Tooling	61	..	2.2	8.1	4.8
47	14	Astbury & Ridley	14	..	1.2	8.5	4.1
165	18	Atlantic Hoge	18	..	3.8	11.5	4.8
77	14	Attwood Garage	14	..	2.2	15.4	4.8
165	18	Audiotronic	18	..	6.5	39.5	2.6
321	125	Ault & Wibborg	125	..	2.6	19.2	3.5
14	8	Aurum Hldgs	8	..	1.0	12.5	3.4
178	58	Austin E.	63	..	2.1	12.5	2.3
161½	13	Automotive Pd	13½	..	2.1	15.7	1.8
146	41	Averys	44	+½	4.2	14.1	4.9
214	48	Avon Rubber	125	+5	12.5	5.8	4.2
90	17	BBA Grp	17	..	3.4	19.9	2.9
38	13	BPB Ind	38	..	8.0	18.3	3.6
74	43	BSG Int	43	..	..	..	1.8
227	22	BSR Ltd	22½	..	2.2	1.0	1.6
97	37	BTR Ltd	36	..	2.1	14.1	1.4
166	26	Babcock & W	30	..	2.7b	8.9	3.5
127	19	Bacal Const	24	..	..	..	2.7
62	17	Baggeridge Brk	19	..	3.4	12.4	3.5
145½	23	Baker P.E. Ord	23	..	4.9	8.4	5.0
193	33	Baird W.	33	..	4.7	11.5	3.6
103	16	Baker Perkins	17	..	4.7	27.8	2.0
129	28	Bambergers	28	..	3.3	18.7	1.7
43	20	Barker & Dixon	20	..	..	..	3.8
304	122	Barlow Ind	139	+4	12.0	6.9	3.8
122	33	Barr & Wallace	33	..	4.2	38.1	1.4
41	11	Do A	11	..	4.2	38.1	1.4
29	21	Barrett Dove	21	..	4.8	19.0	3.4
96	17	Barrow Hepbn	24	..	4.8	19.0	3.4
165	43	Barton & Sons	16	..	3.7	23.3	2.5
74	23	Bassett G.	23	..	3.7	24.9	2.7
84	18	Bath & P'land	18½	..	3.5	18.6	2.6
221	58	Baxter Fell	58	..	4.3	13.8	3.4
91	31	Beales J.	31	..	3.8	18.6	2.7
144	30	Beatson Clark	31	..	3.8	18.6	2.7
65	11	Beauford Grp	11	..	3.8	34.6	1.9
350	80	Beaverbrook	80	..	0.5	1.0	..
13	7	Do A	14½	..	0.5	1.0	..
311	110	Beecham Grp	116	..	7.3	6.3	5.7
139	42	Bejam Grp	42	..	4.5b	9.5	2.8
113	12	Bemrose Corp	12	..	2.2	20.8	1.4
52	20	Benn Bros	20	..	3.8	10.0	3.9
158	58	Bennas Int	58	..	5.8	10.0	3.9
196	59	Berisf'ds S. & W.	60	..	7.4	12.3	4.1
75	20	Berisfords	20	..	7.8	39.3	2.8
28	17	Berwick Timpo	18	..	2.1	11.7	2.4
11	6	Bestobell	8	..	..	8.0	3.8
207	123	Bibby J.	134	..	6.5	16.5	3.3
171	42	Bibby J.	42	..	7.0	16.6	3.2
62	26	De Vere Hotels	62	..	2.3	28.1	2.3
39	23	Bickfords	23	..	2.3	9.4	4.0
21	6	Chamberl'n Grp	8	..	1.8	21.9	2.6
70	15	Bicmas Webb	20	..	..	..	3.8
200	68	Bidwells Prop	68	..	7.0	4.9	3.9
110	28	Big & Hykins	35	..	3.

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Bank committee puts case for self-regulation of capital markets

John Whitmore

The City Capital Markets committee, set up under the auspices of the Bank of England in July to improve communications and the handling of public policy issues in the City, has come out strongly in favour of the continuation of self-regulation in the United Kingdom capital market.

It goes on to criticize the Department of Trade for its "inability or unwillingness" to enforce the considerable supervisory powers it already holds under the present Companies Acts.

This defence of the self-regulatory system by the CCMC comes in a paper, "The Supervision of the Securities Markets", which has been drawn up in response to questions put by the Department of Trade in its recent inquiry into the management and supervision of security markets.

The questions the report sets out to answer cover a broad spectrum of issues. These include the objectives and the success of the existing regulatory bodies, the continuing validity of those objectives, the gaps in the present system and the pros and cons of self-regulation as opposed to statutory controls.

Commenting on the report yesterday—it was sent to the Department of Trade over the weekend—Mr Ian Fraser, the former Director-General of the Takeover Panel who chairs the committee, said that it represented the first attempt by a City spokesman body to put its own views.

The report was designed to show, he continued, that there was "no case at all for slavish imitations of systems imported from elsewhere".

The major conclusion of the report is that "whilst it is considered that the arrangements which presently exist for the management and supervision of the British securities market may not be faultless, the system has demonstrated in operation that it is fundamentally successful in attaining appropriate objectives".

The primary objective is defined as "the creation and maintenance of a capital market which is efficient, effective and honest". And it must be in the interests of those who operate in the market and derive a living from it, the committee goes on to argue, that they impose an adequate regulatory system to see that this objective is achieved.

To this end the committee then points to the many ways in which the investor is at present protected from possible abuse.

Points here include: the higher level of disclosure demanded by the Stock Exchange than by statutory requirements; the Stock Exchange rules against market rigging and misconduct by its members; the Stock Exchange compensation fund to protect investors against default by brokers; the way in which the jobbing system rapidly enables new information to be reflected in prices; and the successful role of the Panel in insuring equitable treatment for all shareholders in takeover situations.

However, the report does point to certain areas where the committee feels there is room for an extension of statutory provisions. The committee would, for instance, like to see insider dealing made a criminal offence and, as such, to be investigated and dealt with by the normal organs of the state.

Moreover one member of the committee, Mr N. S. Wilson, also believes that the Panel "should at least have some statutory framework enabling it to impose directly pecuniary penalties for a breach of the rules".

Gold soars after Ford pact with M Giscard

By Melvyn Westlake

As government officials in London and other capitals insisted on the unimportance of the gold agreement reached during the meeting of President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing on Martinique, the bullion markets reacted with a sharp price rise. On the foreign exchanges there was a corresponding slump in the dollar.

There appeared to be a divergence of interpretation about the significance of what had been agreed at the Franco-American talks.

However, the prevalent view on the world's major bullion markets was that the United States had retreated from its hard-line resistance to any revaluation of the official dollar price of gold of $42.22 an ounce.

Heavy and sustained buying of the metal was reported, driving the free market value up by $6.00 an ounce to $189.00—just $1.75 short of the record level reached last month.

In Zurich, the dollar fell to its weakest level ever. It also tumbled in Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and other financial centres. Sterling rose ¼ cent against the United States currency to $2.3345.

The monetary authorities were clearly taken aback by the impact of the Franco-American agreement on the bullion and exchange markets. There were a string of statements denying any intention to revalue the gold component of various national reserves holdings.

Official sources in London said that Britain did not intend to increase the accounting value of its gold holding, currently 21m ounces, valued at $886m.

It was emphasized that the Government had not changed its view that gold should be phased out of the monetary system. One official stressed that the Martinique agreement—which allows "any government which wished to do so to adopt current market prices as the basis of valuation for its gold holdings"—was in no sense a new development.

Earlier this year Italy had used its gold—valued at market-related prices—as collateral for a loan from West Germany.

The only significant departure would be if central banks were actually allowed to buy gold from the free market to add to national holdings, according to the official view.

In the meantime, the link between gold and the International Monetary Fund's special drawing rights had recently been severed, giving a further push to the demonetization of gold.

In Frankfurt, Dr Otmar Emminger, vice-president of the Federal bank, said that Germany was "unlikely" to revalue its own gold holdings. He said that he did not regard gold as an important problem in international monetary terms.

The question of whether central banks should be allowed to buy gold on the free market was, in his view, an "obsolete" one.

The French, however, were predictably out of step. M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, the French Finance Minister, said that the Franco-American agreement had removed an important obstacle to a better balanced international monetary system.

A fresh indication of the general movement away from the use of gold came yesterday from the European Community Commission.

The Commission wants to create a new Community monetary unit that should gradually replace the current unit of account for which there is a confusing variety of calculations and which is pegged to gold.

Dr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Monetary Commissioner, said the new unit should be based on a basket of EEC currencies.

Government is expected to pare back state steel plans to raise prices by up to 25pc

By Peter Hill

Price increases of up to 25 per cent that the British Steel Corporation planned to introduce from the beginning of next year are expected to be pared back considerably by the Government.

Under the terms of the European Coal and Steel Community, the BSC has freedom in pricing strategy but the British Government has traditionally intervened in the corporation's price increases.

For the corporation to implement increases from January 1 next year, its intention to do so needed to be notified to Brussels yesterday under the ECSC 15-days rule.

This notification has apparently not been made, and the indications are that the BSC faces another battle with the Government over the next few days.

Since the state steel undertaking submitted its price proposals involving the restructure of the corporation's entire price lists there has been little discussion with the Government.

Given the complex nature of the restructuring, BSC officials expected that they would have been called to provide additional information.

However, despite the Chancellor's commitment to an ending of subsidies in the nationalized industries outlined in the November Budget, it appears that the Cabinet is not happy about the scale of increases proposed. Some ministers are apparently keen to see the scale of price increases reduced substantially.

Given the current downturn in the demand for steel throughout the world, the BSC might be prepared to accept some downward revision of the original increases.

But drastic cuts would certainly be strongly opposed by Dr Monty Finniston, the BSC chairman. He has made no secret of his distaste for government interference in pricing strategy and of his belief in the importance of the BSC continuing along the profitable path on which it has now started.

The lack of any clear indication from the Government is also a source of concern to the private sector steelmakers. Their prices have tended to follow those adopted by the state steel undertaking.

Representatives of the British Independent Steel Producers Association (BISPA) were due to meet today in Birmingham to discuss their next price moves, but that meeting has been cancelled pending the outcome of the BSC's discussions.

Private sector prices are about 15 per cent higher than those of the BSC, and private sector producers consider that increases of up to 20 per cent can be justified on cost grounds alone.

In a speech to the annual general meeting of BISPA yesterday, Mr B. C. Bruce-Gardner, the retiring president, said that with steelmaking costs surging upwards throughout the world, no unreasonable restraints on price levels for steel products should exist.

He continued: "Despite inflationary problems, steelmaking prices must be kept at a level which is adequate to cover operating and raw material costs and provide the profit which is essential to fund the investments required."

BISPA members are also becoming increasingly concerned with the BSC's inability to meet their demand requirements.

The constraints on the BSC's production this year had seriously affected private sector producers of finished products, and in some cases, Mr Bruce-Gardner said, had been subjected to more acute "three-day week" conditions than those which arose from the miners' strike at the beginning of the year.

Unable to meet the demand from their customers, private sector producers have been forced to introduce short-time working because of the inadequacy of supplies from the BSC.

Coal Board leasings not within guidelines

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

At least three leasing schemes introduced by the National Coal Board in recent years do not conform to Treasury guidelines issued after the British Railways Board's controversial tax avoidance scheme for the supply of rolling stock.

Last week, the Commons Committee of Public Accounts criticized Whitehall over the Railways Board scheme, which prompted changes to tax regulations and also led to the framing of special guidelines for nationalized industries when operating leasing programmes for capital equipment.

The Coal Board's biggest leasing deal concerns its North Sea exploration company, which has a subsidiary L. S. Leasing to which a financial consortium has loaned up to £25m and which hires about £21m worth of equipment for the Viking gas field. Under an agreement, some 90 per cent of the tax saving under group relief accrues to the Coal Board.

Other leasing concerns cover other board activities, leasing vehicles, earthmoving equipment, and roof supports. These activities operate through L. F. Leasing and O. R. Leasing, and the facilities provide up to at least £11m of leased items.

Since the Treasury issued its guidelines two years ago, four other nationalized industries have adopted leasing schemes, all conforming to present Whitehall rules.

The Coal Board's schemes were worked out before the rules came into force, and approval was not sought from Whitehall before they were made. The Treasury now holds that three of the Coal Board's schemes could not have conformed to its guidelines.

Other nationalized industry leasing arrangements include the British Gas Corporation, which has a £15m annual ceiling for this method of providing equipment and proposes to hire 16 compressor sets for the Frigg gas project, worth £15m over three years.

The Post Office has an arrangement with merchant bankers Samuel Montagu and Co for leasing cable ships, while the CEGB has approval in principle for leasing gas turbines with private sector finance.

Triumph car strikers accept compromise

By R. W. Shakespeare

Assembly workers at British Leyland's Triumph car plant in Coventry, whose strike over layoff pay stopped all production and made 11,000 workers idle, are to go back to work today.

But thousands more Midlands car workers were told that they were being laid off for "extended holidays" over the Christmas and new year period.

This is because of production cuts made necessary by the depressed state of the car market.

The 1,000 Triumph assembly workers, who have been on strike for three weeks, voted at a mass meeting to accept a recommendation of their shop stewards and approve settlement terms reached in negotiations with the management at the weekend.

The men have been demanding layoff pay for time lost during a two-week strike by control room staff at the Coventry car plant. The two consecutive disputes have together cost British Leyland about £30m worth of lost production.

The settlement is the result of a compromise. Fresh negotiations have taken place between management and unions on the basic issue of layoff pay. The present agreements rule out such payments when men are made idle by disputes of any kind within their own plant.

For the next six weeks, while these negotiations are being held, the Triumph workers have been guaranteed payment—at 80 per cent of average earnings—if they are laid off because of any "constitutional strike" when normal negotiating procedures have been exhausted.

If there is no long-term settlement of the layoff pay question at the end of this six-week period the guarantee may be extended while negotiations continue.

One immediate effect of the end of the assembly workers' strike is that some 5,000 unsold vehicles which have been stockpiled in the Triumph plants because of picketing can now be released to dealers.

This could help British Leyland's cash-flow problems.

The grimmer news from the industry yesterday was that more than 4,000 Coventry car workers, mostly Chrysler men, are to be laid off for three days over the holiday period. These days will be added to the normal five-day break.

Chrysler's Ryton car assembly plant, employing some 4,000 production workers, will shut down on Friday until January 2.

Short-time at Lucas: The Lucas Group is putting 3,750 workers on short-time. Four factories in Birmingham and Cannock which supply the motor manufacturers with lighting equipment will begin operating a four-day week for an indefinite period from January 9.

Announcing the cutback, a Lucas spokesman hinted at more short-time to follow. He said: "The number affected by the short-time is less than 25 per cent of the total work force of the electrical division."

VW may close plant: Volkswagen announced in Wolfsburg that it might have to close plant permanently and lay off workers if its present policies of short-time working and voluntary redundancies failed to cut production sufficiently.

White House may back down on Exim Bank

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Dec 17

It appears that the White House is backing down in its opposition to Congressional action to set firm limits on Credits that the Export-Import bank can make for American-Russian trade deals and on severe restrictions on the bank's financing of Soviet energy projects involving United States companies, Senate sources stated.

The White House, the sources added, is having to accept the fact that unless it accepts such limitations, which it has bitterly opposed, there is just no chance of the Export-Import Bank Bill being passed by the Congress.

The Bill is vitally important because it extends the life of the bank and grants it lending authority of £25,000m (£10,800m) over the next four years. Since November 30 the bank has been stripped of its authority to make any new loans.

Leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives will confer on the Bill tomorrow morning for the second time, following the rejection of the final conference report by the Senate yesterday.

Both houses have, to the dismay of the White House, already agreed that the bank should not be able to make loans of more than $300m to United States-USSR trade deals without additional Congressional authorization.

One of the main points at issue now centres on imposing tough restrictions on the bank's lending to energy projects in Communist countries.

Several major deals are currently awaiting decisions from the bank, including a $49.5m loan to United States oil companies that have agreed to undertake energy exploration, in conjunction with Japanese companies, in Siberia.

Senate sources suggest that a compromise may be reached, which the White House has grudgingly accepted, that would demand that the bank obtains special authorization from Congress for all loans to energy projects above $25m to just the Soviet Union.

There appear to be strong pressures for such restrictions because of the growing feeling here that the big United States controlled multinational oil companies are striving to obtain cheap credits from the American Government to develop oil wells in Russia that will produce oil that will never come to the United States.

Drivers' strike halts port

By Michael Baily
Shipping Correspondent

The port of Southampton came to a virtual standstill yesterday because of unofficial action by crane drivers over what they consider unduly protracted pay negotiations. They say they will start work again on Friday.

All container and most break-bulk cargo operations are stopped, but British Transport Docks Board said last night they hoped to keep roll on-roll off traffic moving.

Speaking for one of the leading users of the port, Union-Castle Line, Mr Geoffrey Bedford, director, said: "These men are only about 150 out of 2,000 dock workers but they are holding the whole port to ransom."

Tyneside layoffs: Swan Hunter Shipbuilders last night laid off a further 185 workers from their six Tyneside shipyards bringing the total laid off as a result of pay disputes to 5,841. Together with striking electricians nearly 6,500 of the 10,000 workforce are now idle.

US shipping law criticized

The Council of European and Japanese Shipowners Associations (CENSA) representing more than half the world's merchant shipping, yesterday expressed "deep concern" at the passing this week of the United States Energy Transportation Security Act. This reserves 20 per cent of American oil imports to US flag ships, rising to 25 per cent next June and 30 per cent the year after.

Mr Bob Russell, chairman of CENSA, said the measure, passed by four votes with six abstentions in the Senate, offended against relations with friendly nations.

'Sharp practices' growing in second-hand car deals

Unscrupulous second-hand car dealers are becoming increasingly active as the motor trade tries to reduce stocks of "poor sellers" in anticipation of a further recession in sales.

This warning came yesterday from the West Midlands Consumer Protection department. It stated that one in seven of all complaints being received relate to second-hand car sales.

"Few areas of trade offer as much scope for sharp practices as the sale of second-hand cars".

Since the department was formed in April, it has received nearly 2,000 complaints about second-hand car deals and claims that in a high proportion of these it obtained redress for buyers. There have also been many successful prosecutions and a further 15 are pending.

A high proportion of these cars, the department said, had belonged to companies and could have travelled as much as 50,000 miles in a year compared with the average motorist's 10,000 to 15,000 miles. Such cars were bought cheaply at auctions and, after the bodywork had been polished and their mileage recorders wound back, were often sold as one or two-year-old low mileage cars.

Another risk for unsuspecting motorists was the multi-deposit trick. The department said dealers took a number of deposits from would-be purchasers, then left the area to repeat the process on another site with the same car.

Australian protest at GM Holden 'threat'

Canberra, Dec 17.—Mr Jim Cairns, deputy prime minister, said there was no need for General Motors Holden (GMH) to threaten the Australian Government or dismiss thousands of workers to get action by the Government.

Mr Cairns said: "The automotive industry all over the world is going through a basic reconstruction. GMH in Australia is part of this.

If it wants to blame the Australian Government, this only provide it with an excuse; that is no way to handle industrial reconstruction problems. GMH need not threaten the Government, nor the workers just before Christmas."

He said GMH persisted in laying off workers even though the Government told the company that the volume of Japanese imports into Australia, at present 34 per cent of the market, would be halved in January.

Mr Bob Hawke, head of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, called on the Government to move immediately to protect the jobs of GMH employees.

He gave a warning that as many as 20,000 workers could be added to the unemployment rolls because of expected layoffs in the components supply industry.

Jersey rejects £600-a-firm corporation tax

Jersey's MPs today followed Guernsey's by rejecting a proposal to increase local corporation tax from £300 to £600 a year per company from January 1.

The tax is paid by locally-registered companies not trading in the islands. Local finance houses had given a warning that the increase could drive such companies to alternative low tax areas, and damage confidence in the Channel Islands as offshore finance centres.

The corporation tax decisions today follows publication of the Finance Bill. Anxieties have arisen over part of Clause 4 which would extend capital transfer tax liability to former UK residents settling in the islands after November 12 last. The clause is to be studied by Jersey's Constitutional and Common Market Committee, aided by Guernsey's advisory and finance committee. Tax experts have described the clause as "a deliberate attack" on fiscal policies of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

UK team to study Dutch paper salvage

Dutch waste paper salvage methods are to be studied by the Department of Industry as part of a bid to improve British methods.

Representatives of the advisory group on waste paper collection and recycling, set up this summer under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Meacher, Under-Secretary for Industry, leave for Holland this week.

At present only about 27 per cent of the total paper and board which is used in the United Kingdom is salvaged, a lower proportion than in West Germany or Japan as well as in Holland.

Britain paying £30m to development bank

The United Kingdom is to contribute $71.7m (about £30m) to the Inter-American Development Bank in three annual instalments, probably starting in 1976.

Processors call for EEC equality on sugar prices

Hugh Clayton

Food processors said yesterday that they had put a three-point claim to the Government about sugar marketing next year. The claim was made to Mr Hart, Minister of Agriculture, by four trade associations which together use more than half of all sugar supplied in Britain.

They asked first for an extension of the equalization scheme beyond its closing date at the end of this month. Under the scheme the high price of cane sugar and low price of beet are averaged by the Sugar Board into a common wholesale rate charged for sugar from all sources.

They also wanted sugar to be sold to them next year at the same price as that paid by food processors in other EEC countries, even if Britain had to pay more for raw sugar than the rest of the Community.

It was feared that a high sugar price in Britain would open domestic and export markets to large imports of cheap sugar-based foods from other Community countries.

Lastly, the associations called for fairer sharing of available sugar between retailers and industry. This year government policy has consistently been to channel available supplies to shops at the expense of industry.

The four associations concerned were the Cake and Biscuit Alliance, the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, the National Soft Drinks Council and the Food Manufacturers' Federation. Their annual sugar consumption is equivalent to slightly more than the 1.4 million tons from developing countries for which a 1975 contract has still to be agreed in Brussels.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 63.74 +1.07
FT index: 159.2 +3.0

Rises

BP	10p to 210p	Marchwiel	3p to 27p
Brit Am Tob	3p to 159p	Martin, R. P.	5p to 25p
Dover Eng	4p to 14p	Renwick Grp	2p to 16p
GKN	7p to 106p	RHP	2½p to 20p
Hawker Sidd	5p to 137p	Union Corp	14p to 464p
Janes, H. C.	9p to 54p	Unilever	5p to 170p
Lloyds Bk	4p to 100p	Western Areas	15p to 630p

Falls

ARB-Latham	10p to 95p	Morland	10p to 100p
Church	5p to 60p	Normand Elec	3p to 20p
Corinthian	1p to 8p	Plysu	3p to 20p
Francis Ind	4p to 9p	Priest, B.	4p to 28p
Inv Bldgs	10p to 430p	Securicor Grp	5p to 55p
Inchcape	1p to 153p	Streeters	1p to 8p
Movitex	1p to 9p	S & U Stores	1p to 6p

Equities moved up but trading remained thin.

Gilt-edged securities were featured by demand for the "longs".

Sterling rose 50 points to $2.3345. The "effective devaluation" rate was 21.6 per cent.

Gold jumped $6 to $189.00.

SDR—$ was 1.217630 while SDR—£ was 0.521604.

Commodities: Sugar prices lost another £20 a ton with the London daily price now down to £430: a month ago the price was £650. Cocoa futures were mostly lower while coffee failed to hold early gains. Copper eased £2.50 but LME silver rose between 1.55p and 2.5p. Reuters index dropped another 3.9 to 1,186.5

Reports, pages 24 and 25

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.82	1.77
Austria Sch	41.75	39.75
Belgium Fr	89.00	86.25
Canada $	2.345	2.295
Denmark Kr	13.80	13.40
Finland Mkk	8.65	8.40
France Fr	10.75	10.45
Germany DM	5.80	5.60
Greece Dr	72.25	69.50
Hongkong $	11.05	10.70
Italy Lr	1,565.00	1,510.00
Japan Yn	725.00	700.00
Netherlands Gld	6.00	5.80
Norway Kr	12.60	12.25
Portugal Esc	58.00	56.00
S Africa Rd	1.75	1.69
Spain Pes	136.25	131.25
Sweden Kr	10.00	9.70
Switzerland Fr	6.20	5.95
US $	2.38	2.33
Yugoslavia Dnr	42.25	40.75

Rates for bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers cheques and other foreign currency business.

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Mr Simon against excessive stimulus for American economy

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Dec 17

Mr William Simon, the United States Secretary of the Treasury, today came out against tax cuts to stimulate the economy and told the Senate's budget committee that "if we turn again to excessive economic stimulus, in an attempt to escape the consequences of our past indulgences, we will only be presented with a larger bill later on".

Mr Simon recently admitted that a tax cut is under consideration by the Administration, but he clearly attempted today to dampen speculation on this.

He said in his testimony that there is a serious danger of over-stimulating the economy, that can only produce another round of inflation.

The Treasury Secretary also gave a warning against neglecting inflation at this time of recession. His comments come just as there are increasing indications in the money markets that the Federal Reserve is easing policies again and that the Fed is lowering its Fed funds target rate by around 0.5 per cent to around 8.5 per cent.

President Ford's chief economic policy advisers are now hard at work devising strategies to stimulate the economy and an increasing number of economists believe that the advisers will come out in favour of tax reductions.

The respected Argus Research Corporation states in its latest report that "a tax cut is coming" and the economists at the First National City Bank appear to take this for granted in their latest budget estimates.

Belief that the President will abandon the policies of the "old time religion" of fiscal monetary restraint is based on the now prevailing view that the recession will be deeper, longer and more pervasive than was expected.

The latest economic report by Citibank forecasts a current fiscal year Federal budget deficit of $20,000m and adds that the deficit may be even larger for fiscal 1976, which starts next July 1, because of tax cuts.

A big worry for Administration officials now is the rising level of bankruptcies. President Ford has shown particular concern about this in recent days and it appears to be one factor that many experts believe will change the President's mind on tax cuts.

Report says promote more women in retail trade

The retail trade should make better use of its staff by employing more female shop managers and by developing managerial talent from the shop floor, recommends a Neddy report on career development in retail distribution published today.

The report concentrates mainly on the job of the shop manager. The job, says the report, has in recent years become more concerned with man-management and the operation and control of systems laid down by head office, and less concerned with customer contact and detailed knowledge of merchandise.

Recommendations in the report, carried out because of concern over the shortage of competent shop managers, include a strengthening of ties between the branches and head office in terms of personnel management, career training and better selection procedures.

Chemical plants ahead in productivity

New figures released today from the Census of Production show that the chemicals industry is still ahead of other manufacturers in productivity. The net output per head increased from £3,981 to £6,026 compared with the average over the same period for manufacturing, which was £2,283 in 1970 and £3,476 in 1973.

Over the three years, the chemicals industry shed around 25,000 workers, and now operates with a labour force of about 400,000, including working proprietors.

Yarn output drops

Marked falls in single yarn production, but increased output of woven cloth in October compared with earlier periods, are reported by the Textile Statistics Bureau. The organization said that during the month, industry had been severely affected by short-time working and temporary closure of some mills.

Japan keeps credit grip

Mr Teiichiro Morinaga, the Bank of Japan's new governor, said the bank will continue its tight money policy, because recession in Japan is still milder than in the West.

German monetary aims

A gradual continuation of the downward trend of interest rates in West Germany is preferable to a forced reduction which might bring about a reaction on the capital market, the German federal bank said in its monthly report yesterday.

Government talks on N Sea taxes 'nowhere near completion'

By Christopher Thomas

It now seems unlikely that the Government will reach a decision for many weeks about the rate or structure of the proposed taxation of North Sea oil.

Mr Dell, Paymaster-General, told the Commons committee considering the Oil Taxation Bill yesterday: "There have been suggestions that the Government has decided the rate of tax. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"We are nowhere near completion of our discussions with the industry. An enormous amount of evidence has been submitted which will take some weeks at least to analyse.

"I find the consultations of enormous value. I hope they give the industry some confidence that the Government does not intend to adopt policies that will drive them out of the North Sea. It is only by mutual co-operation that the riches of the North Sea can be yielded for our benefit."

His first meeting with the oil companies was on November 19, and since then he had daily been receiving evidence, calculations and comments.

Mr Dell said some oil companies were putting pressure on him not to introduce a variable rate of tax, but a fixed rate. If there was a fixed rate, ways would have to be found of dealing with marginal oil fields.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Opposition spokesman on energy, urged the Government not to rule out different structures for taxing oil.

Morocco takes 50 per cent BP stake: The Moroccan government announced in Rabat that it had taken more than 50 per cent of the capital of the British Petroleum Company in Morocco.

Staff shortage may hit offshore industry

By Business News Staff

Manpower and training needs of the offshore oil and gas industries must be regularly monitored by the Manpower Services Commission says a report* published yesterday. The report makes it clear that the short-term and long-term implications of offshore development for labour may be complicated.

The report, commissioned by the MSC, says that in the next few years the offshore oil and gas industries face labour shortages. There are, states the report, immediate and continuing shortages of geologists, petroleum engineers, drillers and divers.

Examining related onshore activities, the report says that an area in which there is particular uncertainty is platform construction. A high level of demand can be expected into the 1980s, but decisions have still to be taken on the type of platform.

There would be important manpower implications if there was a switch from steel-jacket platforms to concrete and hybrid structures.

To place the demand and supply of labour into context the report examines the competing demands being made for the skills which will be required for onshore work.

The main overlaps with steel-jacket and equipment skills are the shipbuilding industry and mechanical and electrical engineering construction.

**The Discovery of Offshore Oil and Gas: Manpower Implications. (Manpower Services Commission.)*

UK facing 'relegation battle'

By Malcolm Brown

Britain is facing a "relegation" battle, Mr Ralph Bateman, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

"Somehow we must bring the fierce national and local pride and competitiveness which we see on the sports field into the factories of Britain", he said.

Mr Bateman, who was speaking at an American Chamber of Commerce lunch in London, suggested that an agreed incomes policy was an essential feature of any recovery programme.

Industry had to be just as competitive as any football team to stay on top and as the country was facing a relegation battle it was up to everyone to give their fullest support and encouragement at this difficult time.

"Our economic future relative to that of our competitors will depend upon our own behaviour and decisions", Mr Bateman said.

Oil puts 3.5m lire on Italy's deficit

From John Earle
Rome, Dec 17

Italy's balance of payments deficit will at the end of the year surpass 5,000,000m lire (about £3,000m), of which 3,500,000m lire is because of the higher cost of petroleum, Signor Emilio Colombo, the Treasury Minister, told the Chamber of Deputies in a debate on the economic situation.

Indicating that measures may have to be taken to reduce inessential imports, he said that the government's objective was to eliminate the non-oil deficit next year, leaving an oil deficit for 1975 of 3,200,000 to 3,500,000m lire.

Italy, he said, would have to seek further foreign credits next year. At the end of this year, foreign indebtedness would reach the level of 9,000,000m lire, requiring annual interest payments up to 1978 of some 900,000m lire.

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Budget Minister, said that the economic situation was of unprecedented gravity.

Brussels studies Roche market

Brussels, Dec 17.—The EEC Commission said in reply to a written question that it was still investigating the Hoffmann-La Roche pharmaceutical group's alleged monopoly in supplying Librium and Valium tranquillizers.

The Commission, which has wide powers to ensure fair competition in the EEC, said that, on the wider question of tranquillizers, it was examining the findings of market definition studies in order to determine the Hoffmann-La Roche group's share of the market.—Reuter.

BMW complies with EEC rules

Brussels, Dec 17.—Bayerische Motorenwerke has modified the conditions of its contracts with distributors to bring them in line with European Community free competition rules after intervention by the EEC Commission, the Commission said. It said the new form of contract between BMW and its distributors, giving them, among other things, the right to export BMW cars and spares, has now been approved by the EEC authorities.

The Commission said that it accepted BMW's argument that its system of selective distributors was justified—Reuter.

Nippon Electric cut

Nippon Electric company (NEC) states that it asked about 300 sub-contractors and factories in its group to help to cut production by 20 per cent, to the 1972 level. This is because of a fall in domestic demand.

Penguin Books

Penguin Books plans to publish 450 new titles a year over the next three years—not 450 titles in the three-year period, as incorrectly stated in yesterday's Business News.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poor need heating subsidies

From Mrs M. J. Watson

Sir, The decision to lift the subsidies from the gas and electricity industries, while making economic sense, will bear very heavily on persons on fixed incomes. This section of the community, consisting, among others, of single parent families, the elderly poor, women who stay at home to care for aged parents, and those in receipt of tiny pensions for disabilities of various kinds, are already deprived and in many cases barely surviving.

When the prices of their heating and lighting shoot up their efforts at economy could have disastrous consequences. No doubt in due course the heating allowances for which one can apply to the Social Security offices will be increased. However, in my work at the Citizens Advice Bureau it is obvious that many people do not know about the allowances; many that do know would rather freeze than go and ask for them; and the allowances are totally inadequate anyway.

Therefore, would it not be better to reverse the present pricing system of gas and electricity (starting high and reducing the more one uses) which was formulated in those halcyon days when John Public was to be encouraged to use as much fuel as possible to a system whereby a certain number of units would be very cheap indeed, and after this to let the price rise very steeply? In this way the poor and the thrifty would be able to keep warm to a certain minimum standard; the rest of us would be encouraged by the size of our bills to carry out that insulation the powers that be now wish to encourage—and to be thrifty if we did not wish to be poor.

Yours sincerely,
M. J. WATSON,
13 Abbey Park Road,
Grimsby, South Humberside.

From Mr K. Brown

Sir, Mr Norman complains (December 11) about having to pay for rainwater in his fuel. His remedy is simple. Some years ago I objected to paying the then price, about £15 a ton for rainwater supplied by the gas company.

He should take about a couple of pounds of the wet coke weighed on the kitchen scale and put it in the oven Gas Mark 1 or 220 F for an hour or two and weigh it again. He might repeat to ensure that all the water was evaporated. This gives him a very exact percentage of water. In my case the same experiment showed me that coke stored under cover contained about 7 per cent moisture. My wet coke showed over 20 per cent moisture. I assumed generously that 10 per cent might be a reasonable figure for this, and a little very simple arithmetic told me how much I should deduct for the surplus rainwater. I deducted this amount from the bill and invited the gas company to sue me for the balance. Suppliers of coke or anything else will never face the court when they can so easily be shown to be in the wrong.

I am, Sir,
Yours etc,
KENNETH BROWN,
30 Shore Street,
Anstruther,
Fife.

From Mr J. W. Finch

Sir, In the words of Mr Bernard Levin, during the articles on his mother's gas geyser, the "top brass" of the gas industry must all read *The Times*.

May I ask them therefore, together with their opposite numbers in the electricity realm, why they see fit to spend *our* money on advertising their products and services in a variety of publications, and on Independent Television, at a time when we are exhorted to use less energy, and face savage price increases.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. FINCH,
91 Farnham Road,
Guildford.

High cost of packaging

From Mr A. Fisher

Sir, The Price Commission survey published on November 29 makes timely reference to the high cost of packaging in supermarkets. This has always been a burden the consumer has had to bear but now with the scarcity of packaging materials and increasing inflation, the matter is becoming serious and something needs to be done about it.

My own field is in fresh fruit and vegetables. I can say that over many years, methods of low cost distribution have been studied and in recent years systems have been operated successfully which prove that these high costs now being passed on to the consumer are unnecessary. Mrs Shirley Williams and her department cannot turn a blind eye to this situation and it would appear to me that an investigation and report is needed.

One supermarket executive stated on the radio that his company did their own prepacking and avoided the problem. This statement was not entirely true and in any case, whoever does the prepacking engages in a labour and materials intensive exercise and incurs identical costs. Also prepacking impairs freshness, increases handling damage and some popular materials are harmful to the image our trade expects to provide, when the housewife's purchases are seen on the kitchen table.

ALAN FISHER,
The Albert Fisher Group Ltd.
Brun Street,
Burnley, Lancashire.

VAT nil returns

From Rev C. G. Stables

Sir, Our local fruit and vegetable shop, selling nothing else, and so not liable to VAT, has just been told that a monthly "nil" return is not acceptable. Although the shop has been inspected by HM Customs officials, the proprietor has to complete every item on the forms, whatever they are, although it will be nil in every case.

Why does Parliament give such authority to minor officials to harass small traders in this way? Already one shop has stopped selling fruit and vegetables and others may soon follow suit. In a country district with few shops anyway this is a serious matter to the public, if not to officialdom.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. STABLES,
Framland,
Easons Green, Framfield,
Uckfield, Sussex.

Taxpayers oug to be grateful for Clause 40

From Mr Peter Harris

Sir, Mr William Goodhart, in letter (December 12), prot too strongly.

As he correctly states, u the old estate duty rules, property outside the Un Kingdom made by non-d ciled individuals were exe from estate duty if the d died on the following day

Under capital transfer precisely the same rule appl a transfer of value made non-domiciled individual property outside the Ur Kingdom does not attract tal transfer tax.

The Chief Secretary to Treasury at no time gave indication or assurance am ing to grounds for assuming the Government was not re sidering the definition "domicile".

Any professional who n have been asked to commer the taxation implications transfers of property, March 25, 1974, clearly w have borne in mind the p bility of the definition of d cile *for this purpose*, t changed.

Mr Goodhart states "quite a number" of indivic made gifts or settlements tween March 26 and Dece 9, which would be liabl capital transfer tax. The that such a tax liability apply if the Finance Bi enacted as published apr to be a *prima facie* indic that the donors or settlors cerned probably gave up manent residence in the U Kingdom, during the years preceding "the rele time"—ie, the time of the positione.

Mr Goodhart is presun aware of the very great culties involved in establis a change of domicile, an deed that there is a presum of law against such a ch The taxpayers concerned sh be grateful that Clause 4 the Finance Bill makes the tion for the future absol clear, and gives a stat answer to the very diff legal problems relating change of domicile which c otherwise have arisen in case of "quite a number individuals who have n transfers of value since M 26, 1974.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HARRIS,
Millstones,
Westerham Road,
Limpsfield,
Surrey.

Calculating c of motoring

From Mr W. P. Grant

Sir, The letter from Mr D (November 1) is a ty example of how motorists takenly calculate their cost takes only petrol costs account and ignores the sums represented by depr tion, maintenance costs, i ance and taxation. Inclusi these items would have giv more realistic comparison public transport costs.

Yours faithfully,
W. P. GRANT,
36 Cowdray Close.
Leamington,
Warwickshire.

The Central Manufacturing & Trading Group Limited

"Current trading ahead of last year"

reports Norman Hickman, the Chairman.

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement and the Report and Accounts for the year to 31 July 1974.

Trading Results

The year has not been an easy one with industry beset by a variety of problems such as the oil crisis, the miners' strike and the three-day week. However, in spite of these frustrations, further substantial progress, much of it achieved by internal expansion of existing companies, has been achieved. Turnover and profits are again a record with the pretax profit 85.7% ahead at £3,630,054. Earnings per share rose from 6.8p to 10.0p.

A final dividend of 10.26356%, coupled with an interim dividend already paid, makes 20.31356% for the year which is the maximum permitted. Shareholders will also be offered the opportunity of receiving shares in lieu of the final dividend.

Market conditions were generally buoyant throughout the year and the demand for the group's products was at a consistently high level.

Our success, based on high quality service and a wide range of products, entails carrying heavy stocks. Despite our record profits, funds generated were insufficient to sustain the business without recourse to extra borrowings.

With an increase in profits from £0.25m in 1967 to £3.63m in 1974 the group has shown considerable growth and has now emerged as one of the largest suppliers in the country of a large range of industrial products.

Review of Divisional Activities

Steel Stockholding & Metal Processing

Demand was at a very high level throughout the year and the division had the most successful year in its history with trading profits increasing 107.1%. Despite the difficulty of obtaining many types of steel, turnover increased substantially, and represents a considerable increase in tonnage sales. It is unlikely, however, that conditions during the current year will be as favourable. Ferrous scrap and metal processing experienced a year of booming demand with an explosion of prices. We expect further development and expansion in this sphere in the future.

Asbestos, Rubber, Plastics and Services

This division experienced buoyant demand, once again constrained by a shortage of vital materials. The order books are at a high level and prospects are sound. We have been appointed Fiat main dealer for their range of commercial vehicles in the industrial West of Scotland.

Light Engineering

Both sales of the division – up 29.6% – and profits – up 54.3% – show considerable improvement. The current order book is strong and the recruitment of skilled labour and material shortages are the main limiting factors.

Tubes, Fittings and Fabrications

Despite the shortages of certain types of steel tube and the problems of the three day week, output was maintained at a satisfactory level and the divisional results were highly satisfactory. Current trading is very buoyant and there is every prospect of continued expansion.

Drop Forgings and Castings

The year showed a good recovery in profitability but does not yet represent a fair return in relation to capital employed. Orders on hand are the highest ever reached and the growth potential can only be limited by material and labour shortages.

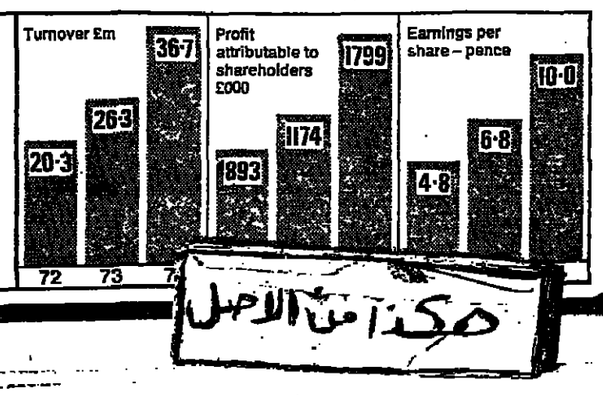
Prospects

Current trading is at a higher level than the same period last year, but there are so many uncertainties in the economic and political environment that it would be unwise, indeed almost impossible, to make any firm prediction about the current year. However, I believe we are better placed than most to overcome any difficulties and there is little doubt your company will realise better than average growth in sales and earnings.

CMT

Copies of the Report and Accounts are obtainable from the Secretary, 303 Halesowen Road, Netherton, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 9NR.

DIVISIONAL RESULTS	Sales £000	Trading Profit £000
Steel stockholding & metal processing	20,168	2,016
Asbestos, rubber, plastics & services	10,786	1,302
Light engineering	2,871	358
Tubes, fittings & fabrications	1,734	344
Drop forgings and castings	1,150	146



Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Commercial Banking Insurance Advice Foreign Exchange New Issues Taxation Advice Company Reorganisation Finance for Private Cos Pension Fund Management Finance for Property Developers Eurocurrency Transactions Mergers and Acquisitions Individual Portfolio Management Unit Trust Management European Trade Investment Trust Management Finance for Property Developers Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Commercial Banking Unit Trust Management Insurance Advice New Issues Taxation Advice Foreign Exchange Company Reorganisation Eurocurrency Transactions Finance for Private Cos Pension Fund Management **Ionian Bank Limited** European Trade Mergers and Acquisitions Individual Portfolio Management Investment Trust Management Eurocurrency Transactions Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Commercial Banking Finance for Private Cos Insurance Advice New Issues Taxation Advice Foreign Exchange Company Reorganisation Pension Fund Management Finance for Property Developers Mergers and Acquisitions Individual Portfolio Management Unit Trust Management European Trade Investment Trust Management New Issues Finance for Private Cos Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Commercial Banking Insurance Advice Foreign Exchange Taxation Advice Company Reorganisation Pension Fund Management Individual Portfolio Management Finance for Property Developers Mergers and Acquisitions Investment Trust Management European Trade **Ionian Bank Limited** Eurocurrency Transactions Unit Trust Management New Issues Insurance Advice Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Commercial Banking Taxation Advice Individual Portfolio Management Foreign Exchange Company Reorganisation Finance for Private Cos Unit Trust Management Pension Fund Management Finance for Property Developers Eurocurrency Transactions European Trade Mergers and Acquisitions **Ionian Bank Limited** Investment Trust Management Unit Trust Management Insurance Advice Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Commercial Banking Foreign Exchange New Issues Taxation Advice Company Reorganisation Finance for Private Cos Pension Fund Management Finance for Property Developers Eurocurrency Transactions Mergers and Acquisitions Individual Portfolio Management European Trade Investment Trust Management Corporate Finance New Issues Commercial Banking Executor & Trustee Services Insurance Advice Company Reorganisation European Trade Mergers and Acquisitions Finance for Private Cos Unit Trust Management Individual Portfolio Management Pension Fund Management Finance for Property Developers Eurocurrency Transactions Taxation Advice Foreign Exchange Investment Trust Management Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Taxation Advice Commercial Banking New Issues Foreign Exchange Company Reorganisation Eurocurrency Transactions Pension Fund Management Finance for Private Cos European Trade Unit Trust Management Mergers and Acquisitions Insurance Advice Finance for Property Developers Individual Portfolio Management Finance for Private Cos Foreign Exchange Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Mergers and Acquisitions **Ionian Bank Limited** Eurocurrency Transactions Unit Trust Management New Issues Insurance Advice Corporate Finance Executor & Trustee Services Commercial Bank Management Foreign Exchange Company Reorganisation Finance. 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هكذا من الأصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The City speaks up for self-regulation

of the great ironies of the Capital Markets Committ- defence of self-regulation ie City— and indeed of the artment of Trade's inquiry the management of capital cers that prompted it—is, *of* se, that the whole topic is ly the major controversial that it still was a year ago. at perhaps is not entirely in the sense this year has several important aspects elf-regulation raise their s—monthly returns by ers and the size of the com- ation fund, for instance— elf-regulation as a red-hot cal issue has tended to be ced by more basic matters as "weevils" producing s and the City's ability to de funds for British try.

at said, the report is still tant on the assumption capitalism and the stock et are going to survive. ugh one member of the ittee has marginally dif- t *views on one or two* ts of the report—not- the need for some kind of ory framework for the —the fact that the com- e comes down strongly on ide of *a continuation* of egulation can hardly be ed a surprise. The nub of gument is that self-regula- ay not be perfect, but that n the interest of those who e *their living from the City* ke it work and that there le that encourages the in- ction of a comprehensive ory framework on the basis lack of use that the De- ent of Trade has so far of the statutory powers lready exist.

the extent that circum- s allow, the debate will *ue over the coming* s. The main danger at age, however, would seem the possibility that the of self-regulation will not on its own and could well, rongly, become inextric- entwined in the broader on the relationship of ment and the capital ts.

sh Oxygen

re from co

g litigation notwithstand- British Oxygen is still ng in its acquisition of trolling interest in the States group Airco, nine-month £6.28m con- on to associated com- profits was well above xpectations *and comfort-* overed the £3.06m interest s on the borrowings to finance the deal. A x profit total for the year d-September which was in quence just above the top f outside expectations was sufficient to set the t afire; but a generally performance elsewhere— a 27.8 *per cent improve-* at the trading level in helping offset the effects ficult Australian trading ions—was acknowledged modest ½p gain to 20½p, the shares yield just 16 per cent.

s, of course, is British n's big selling point, and s safe enough for all that er cent increase in interest es excluding those relating co (the total has come up £10.5m to £18.6m) has ably caused some specula- about the shape of the e sheet. Not that *this will,* case, be comparable with rom 1973, since BOC has e revalued its cylinders engthened their depreciа- ime, *thus throwing up a* ue surplus of £5.2m which en absorbed in accelerated ciation on obsolescent and a switch to LIFO valuation within some *subsidiaries.* There has, in addition, been a £20m accretion to reserves in consequence of the revaluation of cylinders and of certain overseas properties, which should improve the look *of the gearing.*

A large part of the borrowings consists of tonnage debentures; even so BOC is cencentrating hard on cash management and redirecting its capital spending accordingly. Meantime, with the group universally cheerful on current trading experience, there is no likelihood of the ample dividend cover being being seriously eroded—even *if a fall of several points in the* rate of sales growth in the final quarter suggests that profits growth this year will by no means be so buoyant.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £41.7m
Sales £403m (£319m)
Pre-tax profits £34.6m (£28.4m)
Earnings per share 6.59p (5.55p)
Dividend gross 3.31p (3.15p)

Marley

holding steady

Marley emerged from the second half all square after a 27 per cent fall in the first, but *the true trading recovery was* not quite so good as it seems. The first half was badly affected by the three-day week and suffered in comparison with a previous half that took in the pre-VAT buying rush. By contrast the second half of 1972/73 was a relatively dull period, so, averaged out, the second half trend this time was not much different from the first.

In Marley's markets, however, holding steady is no mean feat, and for this the group can thank its increasing build-up in the home improvement and do-it-*yourself fields. Overall* United Kingdom profits were down somewhat, but general buoyancy in home improvements did much to offset the deterioration on the new housing side. Even here, though, Marley reckons it has not been hurt as badly as the housing market as a whole. Public sector building has remained firm and there has *been further support,* apparently, from a fashion switch away from flat roofs to sloping roofs which use Marley's tiles.

But a p/e ratio of 2.6 and a yield of 13.8 per cent with the shares at 31p are a clear sign that nobody is gambling too hard on Marley's resilience preventing at least some deterioration in 1975. The overseas *interests, which were modestly* higher last year despite weakness in Eire and Germany, may hold up again this year, but DIY is unlikely to be totally immune to the general malaise. That suggests lower profits in the United Kingdom again, although hardly on a scale to threaten a dividend that is still more than four times covered.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £19.7m
Sales £133m (£122m)
Pre-tax profits £11.4m (£13.5m)
Earnings per share 12.1p (13.9p)
Dividend gross 4.27p (3.7p)

Rothmans

warning signals

Rothmans International shares closed at 14½p yesterday, still above the 1973-74 low of 12½p though a long way from the 57½p high.

They continue to look unappealing even though the profits reported for the half year to September 30 were better than the market expected. But that is not saying much; sales rose by £17m but pre-tax profits dropped by a quarter and tax then took a hefty 64½ per cent of what was left. The interim dividend is maintained but the directors warn shareholders of the need to be prudent, and to set the final in the light of the final profit figures.

This seems a warning to be heeded. Interest on convertible bonds (£4.44m) can only be deducted from United Kingdom profits and these were too small to qualify for relief. It looks as if this applies to the second half year as well. In addition, foreign tax charges have risen appreciably.

Interest charges are also on the increase, pressing ever more heavily on pre-tax profits. The last balance sheet dated March 31, 1974, showed a big jump in short-term borrowings on which interest rates had risen.

The trading outlook seems bleak. United Kingdom profits were hit by the March rise in duty, a week-long strike in Ulster and a subsequent transport strike. Rothmans specializes in King Size cigarettes and was hit particularly hard.

The group does a big export business especially to the Middle East but costs are rising too fast for it to benefit from currency depreciation. There are tentative hopes of a German price increase in some months time, but too late to *help the final figures.*

Rothmans is a pure tobacco group without new interests to bale it out; and it has never done as well as its earlier stock market image as a BAT in miniature suggested.

The yield on a maintained dividend (which looks a little unlikely) would be 15.7 per cent while the historic p/e ratio is 1.6.

Interim
Capitalization £20m
Sales £480m (£463m)
Pre-tax profits £14.32m (£19.2m)
Dividend gross 0.81p (0.81p)

Montague Meyer

dividend prop

Montague L. Meyer is making the best of a bad job. Pre-tax profits all but halved in the first six months of the year, but the group is quick to point out that the results are not really comparable. Meyer's gross margins were well in excess of reference levels after last year's timber boom and this year's further enforced cuts. At trading profit level, a fall from £9.5m to £7.8m hardly looks like *the sort of disaster that share* ratings in the timber sector have been awaiting. Indeed it looks fairly good going, bearing in mind that other group's like May & Hassell earlier in the week are taking a very sharp pair of scissors to stock values this year.

What has really dented performance is a hefty rise in borrowing charges from £0.9m to £2.7m. Some of that is accounted for by the group's recent £10m line of medium-term credit, but bank borrowings will apparently be down in *the next balance-sheet.* Meyer has been out of the timber market for several months now, and claims that most of the group's stock was purchased well before prices peaked. On the trading front *this should* stand them in good stead, although the system of forward contracts means that the timber groups only started feeling the pinch in demand last summer. But a yield of 15½ per cent on the forecast increase in dividend gives some support to the shares at 19p.

Interim: 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £7.8m
Sales £75m (£64m)
Pre-tax profits £4.3m (£8m)
Earnings per share — (—)
Dividend gross 1.34p (1p)

Motorists are paying the price of Government's fuel conservation

Mr Varley has wasted no time in carrying out his pledge to concentrate oil price rises on petrol for motorists. Yesterday's announcement sets a new record, even by the inflated standards of this year, for the size of increase in the price of a gallon of fuel for the average motorist.

Even more important, by ending the system of imposing a maximum retail price, he has served notice that the Government no longer intends to act as a barrier between car drivers *and the full cost of their action.*

From Friday, as long as they obey the other parts of the Price Code, which restrict such things as their gross profits, service stations will be able *to charge what they like. For* the garage owners, who have been increasingly squeezed in past months by narrowing margins and sagging turnover, the announcement will come as a *great relief.*

According to the traders, 10 garages have been closing every day because of the squeeze on their profits, and there have been suggestions that they would start charging for such traditionally free services as putting air into tyres or cleaning windscreens.

It is because of the feeling on the part of many retailers that they have not been getting a fair share of the revenue from petrol sales that there are likely to be price increases considerably above the 10p level foreseen by the Secretary of State in some parts of the country.

The retailers claim that in the past year oil companies have managed to do very well as a result of their privileged connexions with the producer states.

The Government, which has remorselessly pushed up the tax on petrol as it has once again become freely available, has done even better.



It would have cost about 8p for a gallon of petrol when this 1909 Humber first came on the road. Now its owner could pay as much as 74p a gallon.

Even the credit card companies, which take a percentage of each sale, have been doing fairly well because their com*mission is calculated on the* total amount charged the customer so they effectively receive commission on that part of the price which is accounted for by tax.

None of these consolations are available to the retailers, who have noticed that, as well as having their margins squeezed, the higher taxes have taken their toll on the amount of petrol sold.

Sales are up from the worst days of the Arab oil embargo, when long queues and shortages at the pumps were the chief constraints. But they have not bounced back with all their old vigour, and the leading oil companies have begun to edge back into heavy advertising and promotional activity.

Until the next Middle East war comes along, the big companies have all the petrol which they can persuade the public to buy and probably rather more.

It is uncertainty about how people will react to higher prices which may make some retailers at least play along with Mr Varley's expressed hope that prices will not go up by more than 10p a gallon.

But it is likely that a large number of outlets, free at last from the need to hold down their prices to the level the Government sets them, will want to take advantage of their rights, if only as a way of finding the funds for promotional offers and giveaways.

The station owners are unlikely to be frightened of Mr Varley's warning that he does not expect them to raise their prices by more than 10p a gallon, because they can point out that if he had really wanted to ensure this was done, he could have kept the maximum price system in operation.

Indeed, raising the cost of private motoring is an indispen*sable element in the Govern*ment's campaign to wake people to the need to conserve fuel, and Britain's position as the lowest price country in the Nine (apart from Ireland) has become rather an embarrassment.

Even the new prices make only a limited difference to the cost of running a car. The AA estimates the increase at about £35 a year for a family saloon which runs 10,000 miles, an increase of only 44 per cent on the present cost of £774.

Despite this limited impact on the pocket of the average motorist, the rises remain a very sensitive issue. That in part at least explains the prickly nature of relations between the Price Commission, which has to *pronounce on their applications,* and the oil companies.

Last week the companies were sharply critical of the commission for its handling of claims from six of the leading companies in November. *All six,* including some that were being made for the second time, were, turned down.

The companies argued that the commission was trying to use technicalities to stop them getting rises to which they were entitled, but which were embarrassing so soon after the increase in VAT in the November Budget.

The commission, on the other hand, argues that the claims were rejected because of failures to observe the prenotification rules embodied in the Price Code.

The key test is likely to come early next year, when the oil companies have had time to work out the full implications of the decision by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries members to switch to a single pricing system for oil.

In doing this, the producers are consciously trying to cut back on the profits of the oil majors and ensure that extra revenue for producer countries does not result in higher prices for western consumers.

Whether the oil companies will see things in this light, or *will try to justify further in*creases to offset the extra price they will have to pay for crude remains to be seen.

Whatever they finally decide to do should provide more information to add to the commission's file on fuel distribution, which will provide the basis of its report to the Government during the New Year.

But whatever conclusions that report reaches, it seems a safe bet that the motorist can expect the price of the gallon in his tank to go nowhere but up.

David Blake

Need to understand workers' motives brings more psychologists into industry

Occupational psychologists are playing an increasingly important role in the world of labour. The appointment last week of Mr Gilbert Jessop, the Department of Employment's chief psychologist, as head of a new work research unit, marks the beginning of a new stage in their progress in the government service. Many big companies now employ psychologists, and academic and professional institutions attempt to understand the minds of those in industry.

In a period when the individual employee and his work group have achieved a new power, independent of their national organizations, it is important to find out what makes them tick. What are the motives which make them at some periods, in some companies, stop work at the drop of a hat? What do they expect of their jobs and the pay and conditions in which they carry it out? What are the causes of frustration which makes men absent themselves from work, or devote only a fraction of their energies to it or frequently change jobs? And what can be done to relieve that frustration?

The ostensible grievances which lead to disputes are often merely symptoms of an underlying malaise. Even experienced personnel officers are sometimes at a loss to know what really lies behind them. The men may not know themselves.

It is often hard to see why in one company there is a spirit of cooperation, while in another where pay and conditions are equally good and management *no less well-intentioned, there is* continuous strife.

Experience may enable a close observer to guess fairly well how people will react to known circumstances, but often not why they will react in that way, and therefore not how they will react in slightly different circumstances.

It may well be that the special training and practical studies of the occupational psychologist can help, but the growth in their use has been slow. It is only a few years since occupational psychology was recognized as a separate branch by the British Psychological Society in addition to clinical and educational psychology. To become an occupational scientist entails additional work, much of it in the field, after obtaining a degree in psychology.

Psychologists were first brought into the Government by the service departments during the last war. They were the original "head-shrinkers" who helped to decide for what sort of jobs recruits were suitable. They brought a different approach to training from that of the sergeant-major.

The Ministry of Defence has *since widened the field.* The psychologists have been concerned in ergonomics (the study of man in relation to the environment in which he works, and the application of anatomical, physiological and psychological knowledge to problems arising) to ensure not only that aircraft will fly and tanks roll, but they are so designed that the physical and mental strains of piloting and driving them will not be excessive.

By degrees other departments followed the Ministry of Defence, and in 1950 a civil service *class of psychologists was set* up covering four grades.

There are now about 250 in the class perhaps half of them occupational psychologists. About 80 of these are in the prison department of the Home Office, 70 in the Ministry of Defence, 60 in the Department of Employment and its agencies and others in smaller groups.

The chief chief psychologist —chairman of the psychologist class management committee, which brings the chief psychologists together every two or three months—is Dr Edgar Anstey of the Civil Service Department. He has 22 psychologists under him operating in three main fields—recruitment and selection, personnel management and organizational studies.

In the first, the Civil Service Selection Board has an established reputation. The personnel management section has developed its work since the 1968 Fulton report, including among other things the introduction of annual appraisal interviews *between management and staff.*

It is in the organizational studies that the main scope for future development lies. Here Mr Jessop's DE unit will be aiming to increase work satisfaction. The psychologists have the backing of the Civil Service heads in plans to give a greater say to staff in the running of local offices—in which about three quarters of the Civil Service works. Experiments have already started and others will follow.

The Department of Health and Social Security, after job *satisfaction studies, have* a model office at Swansea where duties have been reorganized to give the staff a controlling say in the way they apply central directives and consequently, *it is hoped,* provide a more flexible and understanding service for the public with whom they deal.

Such changes are being carried out with the cooperation of the staff associations where relations have not been poisoned by differences over pay.

The Home Office psychologists are concerned mainly with guidance to prison inmates, but they have a more varied role under Mr J. R. Teasdale, in the Employment Service Agency, which recently *claimed that* before long it would have the largest group of occupational scientists in the country.

It is setting up teams in each of its areas. Most of the agency's psychologists are employed in the 18 area offices or attached to the 26 industrial rehabilitation units where they have guidance on suitable work.

They recently started a series of trials to see whether executive officers can take over the more routine work in the units, leaving the psychologists more time to counselling difficult cases, an increasing proportion of which suffer mental rather than physical handicaps. The psychologists are also able under this system to do some outside work which makes their own jobs more satisfying.

In the areas, the psychologists help with difficult cases referred to them by the employment advisers and career officers, visit occupational guidance units and give on-the-job training to guidance officers. A team at the head office of the agency advises on general policy, the guidance *service and training for agency* staff which is on a larger scale than ever before.

They will also participate in mostly short-term research, including a programme designed to appraise industrial rehabilitation procedures.

The establishment of the DE unit under Mr Jessop will mean a notable expansion in British long-term research into the problems of job satisfaction.

Something has been done by independent organizations but on the whole Britain has contributed less in this field than others, such as the United States, the Scandinavian countries and Holland. The Norwegian Work Research Insti*tute in particular carried* through an important three-year programme in the late 1960s.

The work research unit includes behavioural scientists, engineers and industrial relations experts with practical experience. It will operate on the assumption that satisfying work must provide some challenge, variety, an element of discretion and responsibility, the use of the worker's capabilities, scope for development.

The unit offers help to managers, union representatives and workers to explore together the possibilities of restructuring work to make jobs more satisfying in these ways. The potential benefits, it is suggested, include reduced labour turnover and absenteeism, higher *productivity and improvements* in industrial relations generally.

The unit also has £180,000 available to sponsor research by universities and other bodies, in which changes in work organization will be made and the results watched. Already projects are under way in an electronic engineering assembly plant and a bakery.

Mr Jessop would like in the next few months to initiate studies among hospital nurses, in the chemical industry, a chain of garages and among clerical workers. It is not only assembly line work which can be changed into something more varied and interesting.

Eric Wigham

Business Diary: ICI's catalysts • Christmas destocking

scientists from Imperial ical Industries' agricul- division called at Bucking- Palace yesterday to receive Prince Philip the £25,000 obert Award for 1974— Council of Engineering utions' award for innova- technology which con- es to "the national ge and prosperity of the d Kingdom".

ey are Tom Pearce, George er, Phineas Davies, John gher and Derek Corn- te.

Jack Callard, ICI chair- received a gold medal HRH Prince Philip (the president) on behalf of eveloper company.

ir contribution was to op "high activity cata- "—substances which effi- ly trigger chemical re- ns in methanol and nia plants. The ICI team ned and made new cata- which permitted lower- ure (and hence more mical) processes.

entv-three of the 29 new anol plants which have designed or constructed e world since 1966 use the rocess. In licence fees and vst sales, they have brought to Britain.

old rush

he 12th Day of Christmas United States intends to un- 2 million ounces of gold o the market. *There are* that this will depress the market price of gold, but ghted gold speculators are dy discounting this.

ey have their eyes firmly on January, 1976, for that year is the bi-centenary of the American Republic, and who knows how many commemorative medallions, coins and other items of gold memorablia will be struck *in remembrance.*

If every American citizen and the United States population is now estimated to be 210 million, were to buy only ¼ ounce of gold, this would equal a demand for more than 50 *million ounces* of gold. So who's worried about a "glut" of 2 million ounces next month?

Chief barker

Even though the European Commission has indefinitely postponed the battles of the British loaf and the British pint, there *remains one more* bone of contention—British cat and dog food.

Mr Donald Mathias, chairman of Pedigree Petfoods, the Mars subsidiary, is from New Year's Day to be the first British president of the European Pet Food Manufacturers' Association. He succeeds Mr Tom Zaaijer of Quaker Oats Graanproducten, the Netherlands.

One of Mr Mathias's jobs as president is to press for a greater understanding on the part of the Brussels mandarins of the interests of pets—or at least of pet food manufacturers, for are these not the *same?*

In particular, the manufacturers are after a rethink of a directive which lumps meat-based petfoods together with cereal-based animal feedstuffs, and thus restricts the use of certain additives and colourings essential to the intrests of pets as perceived by pet food manufacturers.

Mr Mathias is the association's third president and first from Britain. Since the British association, of which he is also chairman, joined the association three years ago, the European body changed from a collection of companies to one of national associations, and thereby licensed to treat with the commission.

His appointment mirrors the strength of the British pet food market. Our national Pet Food Manufacturers' Association estimates that the European turnover of the pet food industry is about £300m, only twice the British national total.

Energetic

At least one organization is finding the energy and economic crisis a time for growth. Preliminary estimates by the Fulmer Research Institute at Stoke Poges, near Slough, show turnover at the end of the year to be more than £1m against £760,000 last year.

Allowing for inflation of wages and overheads this is almost 50 per cent up on the annual rate of growth of the past few years.

Fulmer is unusual among the independent scientific laboratories offering to do research for industry and government departments on a contract basis. It is owned by a body of professional scientists, the Institute of Physics, which bought the laboratories some years ago on the suggestion of Sir James Taylor, a former chairman of *the Royal Ordnance* Factories Board.

Fulmer Research specializes in solving problems of all kinds of engineering materials, whether metallurgical or plastic. Originally it concentrated on light engineering and aircraft materials before expanding its team of metallurgists, electron-microscopists, chemists, physicists and engineers to explore a wider range of industrial problems.

One of their most important new projects, known as the "Fulmer materials optimizer", is a scheme to help design engineers to select less energy-consuming materials for their work. Methods of analysis have been developed for measuring the energy intensiveness of a material from the moment of extracting an ore right through its processing and forming or forging stage to make a component.

The retiring chairman is Bill Merton, who is now chairman-designate of Robert Fleming Holdings. Merton joined Fulmer in 1945 as a board member, when he was scientific adviser to Erlangers bank.

His successor, John Rose, comes from a research and industrial career with ICI, being ICI's research development director and a main board member.

Points of venue

The choice of Dakar as the site of today's ministerial meeting of the 46 developing countries who are negotiating a new trade and aid agreement with the EEC was by no means lightly agreed.

Originally it was felt that, since the final signing of the agreement early next year was destined to take place in French-speaking Lomé, capital of Togo, the final ministerial consultation should be held in an English-speaking country. Malawi was suggested, but the prospect of Blantyre and Dr Banda aroused something less than enthusiasm.

Then someone suggested Fiji —a more appealing idea, but really, it was eventually conceded, rather a long way to go for a three-day meeting.

Finally it was agreed that Addis Ababa should be privileged. Came the bloody phase of the revolution, and clearly Addis was out.

Ever anxious to help, Idi Amin offered Kampala. Naturally, however, there was no great enthusiasm to give anything looking like a seal of approval to his regime.

Eventually, at the last minute, French-speaking Dakar was chosen as a compromise.

Weevil-minded

The Christmas spirit has at last percolated through to the floor of the Stock Exchange, where there was hectic trading in an unusual new issue yesterday.

This was of a badge inscribed "I am a weevil. Harold hates me." It refers to remarks made last month by the Prime Minister about people who sold shares short during the August Stock Exchange panic.

The 1,000-badge issue was rapidly oversubscribed, with badges changing hands at the close at a bid price of 25p, compared with the offer price of 10p.

Even the offer price, as one wag pointed out, was dearer than British Leyland shares. The one-day issue, a bit of free enterprise by some high-spirited jobbers and brokers, raised £120 for charity.

C.L.R.P. INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

(Chairman: A. G. Touche, F.C.A.)

The following are salient points from the Report and Accounts of the company for the year to 31st August, 1974.

★ *In March 1974 the company* borrowed US$3m at a fixed rate of interest for 5 years.

★ The ordinary dividends for the year total 1.25p, an increase of 13.7 per cent. With the tax credit the increase is 18.5 per cent.

★ The natural resources of Australia give that country excellent long-term prospects. Like Britain with its oil, if it does not eventually flourish, the inhabitants will have only themselves to blame. The November budget shows that the Chancellor understands the problems facing the Western World in general and United Kingdom companies in particular. Unfortunately there is little encouragement of thrift, which is in danger of being destroyed in the United Kingdom by taxation and inflation.

★ The market values of the twenty largest investments were as follows:

	£'000		£'000
MEPC	288	Ford International Capital Corpn.	88
Jardine Japan Fund	235	Anglo American Gold	88
Hothlyn	220	Boots	87
Consolidated Gold Fields	174	British American Tobacco	77
Lend Lease	148	Myer Emporium	76
Shell Transport & Trading	138	Broken Hill Proprietary	72
Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking	126	Burroughs Machines	71
General Electric (U.K.)	108	Smiths Industries	71
3M United Kingdom	104	St. Martins Property Corpn.	68
Vaal Reefs Exploration & Mining	103	Barclays Bank	67

These investments total £2,409,000 or 28.6 per cent. of the portfolio.

PROGRESS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year to 31st August	Gross Income	Total assets less current liabilities	Ordinary shares Earnings (Gross basis for 1965 and 1969)	Ordinary shares Dividends	Net asset Value
	£	£	p	p	p
1965	347,383	5,964,429	1.59	1.3125	31½
1969	341,056	8,983,318	1.61	1.3125	52½
1973	427,579	12,669,774	1.43	1.099	76
1974	622,172	9,370,185	1.78	1.25	44½

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, at 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5PH.

IMPERIAL CONTINENTAL GAS ASSOCIATION

Interim Statement

Consolidated Results (unaudited)	Half Year to 30.9.74	Half Year to 30.9.73	Full Year to 31.3.74
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	28,312	19,525	58,086
Trading Profit	3,739	3,160	10,638
Depreciation	2,509	1,900	4,239
	1,221	1,260	6,399
Income from Investments	122	114	4,547
Interest (net)	(918)	(688)	(1,557)
Group Profit before Taxation	425	686	9,389
Taxation	335	301	4,970
Group Profit after Taxation	96	385	4,419
Minority Interests	21	36	95
Profit attributable to I.C.G.A.	69	349	4,324

The consolidated results are those of the Association and its subsidiaries excluding its Belgian subsidiaries.

Belgian subsidiary companies are not consolidated in accordance with the dispensations granted by the Department of Trade.

The taxation charges relating to the half year to 30th September, 1973 have been adjusted to take account of the increase in the U.K. Corporation Tax rate.

Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending the 31st March, 1975 of 2.68p on £34,147,999 Ordinary Capital Stock costing £915,166; this is equivalent to a gross dividend of 4%. The dividend will be paid on the 2nd April, 1975 to stockholders on the register at the close of business on the 21st February, 1975 and compares with the gross interim dividend paid on the 2nd April, 1974 of 6% on £17,067,863 Ordinary Capital Stock which cost £716,850 net. The Capital of the Association was doubled as the result of a capitalisation issue during the year.

Notes

The Directors cannot emphasise too strongly that the results shown for the half year provide no guidance concerning the probable results for the year.

Apart from income from General Investments, which is relatively insignificant, the Association's investment income is derived from dividends from Belgian companies, all of which are booked in the second half of the financial year. Present indications are that the Group share of earnings after tax of the Belgian subsidiary companies will, in terms of Belgian Francs, be appreciably greater than that for 1973/74.

Of the United Kingdom subsidiaries the Calor Group's turnover for the half year increased by 45% over that for the same period last year, but the level of trading profit rose by only 21%. This reflects mainly the effects of heavily increased material costs and of U.K. Government price controls. Income from Calor's newly expanded activities in the U.S. will now fall into the second half of the financial year due to delay in the maize harvest caused by drought. Rises in both depreciation charges and financing costs have accentuated the normal seasonal first half trough resulting in a pre-tax loss. However, the Directors expect that with normal winter conditions and barring a major economic disruption, the full year to March, 1975 will show an improvement over 1973/74.

The value of gas and liquids sold from the Hewett Field by Century Power and Light Limited rose by 15% but trading profits before depreciation and financial charges increased by only 2% owing to cost escalations not yet reflected in sale prices.

The charge for taxation has been calculated at the provisional rate of 52% but certain losses of overseas subsidiaries in the first half year do not give rise to a corresponding tax offset. However, it is expected that these losses will be offset by profits arising in the second half of the year.

Under the present legislation the maximum total dividend payable for the year ending the 31st March, 1975 will be 6.855775p which is equivalent to a gross dividend of 10.2325%. Provided that circumstances do not change unduly your Directors intend to recommend the maximum permitted distribution.

As previously reported, negotiations have been taking place at the request of the Belgian Government for the rationalisation of the Belgian electricity industry and the Directors of the eight private enterprise companies engaged in the industry have now agreed in principle to regroup into three companies by the 30th June, 1975. Although the final terms have yet to be settled, the agreement in principle provides for the Association to have a major shareholding, but not a controlling shareholding, in an enlarged company engaged in production, transmission and distribution, which will result from the merger of certain other entities with Electrogaz.

BOC Profit Results

British Oxygen

Year to 30th September 1974

	1974 £'000	1973 £'000
Sales of BOC and its subsidiaries	403,424	319,123
Operating costs	338,335	262,806
	65,089	56,317
Depreciation	19,694	18,319
	45,395	37,998
Add: BOC share of associated companies' profits	7,779	891
GROUP TRADING PROFIT	53,174	38,889
Europe	21,788	18,128
Africa	8,745	6,845
America	9,302	1,452
Asia	2,226	1,976
Pacific	11,113	10,488
	53,174	38,889
Interest	18,539	10,511
GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAX	34,635	28,378
Tax	17,444	13,938
	17,191	14,440
Minorities	3,664	3,058
	13,527	11,382
Less: Extraordinary losses (profits) net, after tax	906	(1,080)
AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL	12,621	12,462
Dividends—Preference	86	95
—Interim ordinary	1,661	1,638
—Proposed final	2,855	2,849
	4,602	4,582
Profit retained	8,019	7,880
	12,621	12,462
Earnings per 25p share (203,938,447 fully paid ordinary)	6.59p	5.55p

A revaluation of cylinders has been carried out by our major companies and a change made in cylinder depreciation policy based on current replacement costs and a revised assessment of durability. These changes produced a revenue surplus of £5.2 million. We have used this opportunity and absorbed the surplus by accelerating depreciation of obsolescent plant, the adoption by some Group companies of the LIFO or similar method of stock valuation and by other financially prudent measures.

A capital surplus arising from the revaluation of cylinders and of certain properties overseas has been taken direct to reserve and amounts to some £20 millions.

The BOC share of associated company profits includes £6,276,000 from Airco Inc. and interest paid on the related borrowings amounted to £3,062,000.

Research and development costs of £3,558,000 (1973: £3,380,000) have been absorbed against regional trading.

Your directors recommend a final dividend of 1.4p as last year per 25p ordinary share making a total of 2.216025p for the year (1973 2.205p).

Books closed for the final dividend and reports and accounts to shareholders, 28 February; posting of final dividend warrants 1 April: shareholders' meeting 25 March.

Further copies of this report may be obtained from the Secretary, The British Oxygen Company Limited, Hammersmith House, London, W6 9DX Tel: 01-748 2020.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Growth in Belgian market holds key to year's earnings of IC Gas

By Andrew Wilson

Despite a small setback at mid-term, the Imperial Continental Gas Association is set for another record year, with pretax profits likely to grow from £9.39m to probably something above £11m.

The figures for the six months to end-September are, as usual, almost meaningless as Calor Gas only ticks over during the summer months, while dividend income from the Belgian activities is booked only in the closing half.

At Calor Gas, turnover expanded 45 per cent to £27.8m and trading profits by 21 per cent to £3.52m. But after a sharp increase in interest and depreciation charges, last time's pretax profit of £203,000 was reversed into a loss of £77,000. For the remainder of the year, an overall improvement is expected with the developing United States animal foods subsidiary (which suffered from the delayed maize harvest) expected to break even.

Earnings from Belgium, which come chiefly from the Electrogaz and Antwerpse Gas, gas and electricity distribution operations are expected to increase for the full year by around 25 per cent. This arises from the strength of the Belgian franc against sterling and from higher profits on the index-linked tariffs on the services supplied by the companies.

Century Power and Light, where IC Gas has a 59 per cent stake, was hit by escalating costs, but a 15 per cent increase in turnover is budgetted for in the full year; this should push gross profits some £50,000 ahead to £540,000.

More important, however, is the Government's eventual decision on tax on the North Sea oilfields where Century has a 9 per cent stake in the Maureen field and an undisclosed holding in the key Andrew field.

The interim dividend is being raised from 3p to 4p gross and the final will be increased by the maximum possible, indicating a total for the year of 10.2p (9.05p).

Bates pays £1.3m for control of French bank

By John Plender

Edward Bates & Sons (Holdings) is to pay around £1.3m for a controlling interest in Pommier et Cie, a small French bank which specializes in discounting trade bills. Subject to Pommier becoming a limited company, the purchase should take place before the year end.

Agreement in principle to acquire a 73 per cent stake in Pommier from Banque Saint Phalle was reached over a year ago, but formalities have proved lengthy, a spokesman for Bates said last night. Medium-term dollar finance was arranged for the deal with London banks at the time of the original negotiations, he added.

A further 18 per cent of Pommier is controlled by its president, M Christian Pommier and the shares are traded in the over-the-counter market in Paris. Bates is paying Fr120 a share compared with a recent quote of Fr80. The company has a balance sheet footing of just under £10m and made net profits of around £76,000 in the year to December, 1973.

Bates, which recently sold its Welfare Insurance subsidiary at a book loss of around £9½m, is hoping to build up international business in the French company and to increase its corporate financing activities.

Greenall Whitley kee record intact with marginal rise to £5.1

The result of Greenall Whitley, the largest of the regional brewers, for its last full period, is rather better than expected in that profits were ahead, albeit only marginally.

In the 12 months to September 27 profits of the group, which operates throughout the North-West, North Wales and also in part of the west Midlands, rose by £30,000 to a record £5.12m pre-tax. But having been 14 per cent ahead at halfway (a rise in the price of beer helping to offset rising costs over the initial half) the return from the second six months was down from £3.01m to £2.74m.

If the trend is down, th the situation may be rel to some extent by another increase, notification of is currently before the Commission.

Coming from turnover creased from £47.3m to £ the pre-tax is struck afte cost of repairing prope which rose from £1.37 £1.71m, depreciation maint at £1.3m and interest ch of £1.16m (£1.09m). Ear were 5.11p (6.14p) and a dividend of 1.88p raise total from 2.69p to 2.97p.

Cranleigh loss after special items

Gloomy news from Cranleigh Group, apart from steps to discontinue its investment and financial division, as foreshadowed in October, is that although a pre-tax profit is returned of £772,000 against £1.12m, after deduction of extraordinary items of £832,000 (against £69,000) the "attributable" loss amounts to £470,000 compared with a profit of £542,000. Turnover was up from £8.04m to £9.19m for the year to August 31.

The extraordinary items are made up of surplus on conversion of loan stock, £161,000 profit, sales of Seddon Diesel investment, £88,000 profit, overprovision for loss on sales of subsidiaries profit of £45,000 (loss of £107,000), provision for loss on Secil Properties, £296,000, loss on shares

J & H B Jackson tops £1m with momentum held

Having regained its growth curve last year after two lean periods, and more optimistic at midway after successfully riding over the troubles of the three-day week, J. & H. B. Jackson maintained its interim spurt throughout the full term to September 30. This group of steel and non-ferrous merchants turns in taxable profit 20 per cent higher at £1.34m (beating £1m for the first time), on turnover also up at the same rate to £10.43m. Earnings per share work out at 3p compared with 2.7p.

The board is not recommending a final dividend (against 0.2p) for the year past as the maximum payable is less than 1 per cent gross. Therefore, the total comes out at 0.603p against 0.575p. However, it will pay an interim dividend for the year to September 30, 1975, of 0.5p, payable on March 11, on which a cash/scrip option is proposed.

Corporation tax saving under the stock appreciation proposals outlined in the recent Budget were about £170,000 for the year past, under which they have risen in value from £1.3m to £2.86m.

For the year ahead, the momentum gathered in the final six months of the preceding year continues in the opening two months of the present term.

W Motor pass interim

Continuing to experience difficult times profits of Western Motor Holdings fell from £159,000 to £46,000 in the half to June 30. In the previous 12 months the decline was from £414,000 to £343,000. The dividend is passed, against 1p.

Alcan's Norway sale through

The sale of half of Alcan Aluminium's holding in the Ardal og Sunndal company, to Norway for S62m in cash has been approved by the Norwegian Government and will now go ahead.

Property Hldg & Inv

Income for the first half year declined from £815,000 to £727,000 at Property Holding & Investment Trust, after higher interest charges of £370,000 (£258,000). Earnings a share are down from 3.39p to 3.07p, while the interim dividend is held at 1.75p net. The board intends to raise the year's total from 4.5p to 4.75p.

Fenner geared up for expansion

In the wake of last year's good performance, power-transmission engineers and conveyor-belting specialists J. H. Fenner reckon to be "well equipped to cope with any problems ahead"; and Mr Joseph Palmer, chairman, is confident that the group will continue to prosper.

At home Fenner enjoyed buoyant conditions last year, and the board is still cheerful about the outlook here, particularly now that the recent slackening in the order intake in the materials-handling division appears reversed.

Performance abroad "even more striking", t to "a substantially widene increased penetration".

End-year overdrafts s from £863,000 to £2.4m finance a big increase in st but gearing is still rela low, and the directors ar fident of the company's to finance a big capital-spe programme.

David Brown int recently acquired an 11. cent stake in the group; R has 11.6 per cent.

Danks Gowerton

Announcing a rise in h pre-tax profits from £2 to £347,000, Mr A. Roe, man of Danks Gowerton that the board's aim is pand turnover and profi

Sales advanced by 26 pe to £4.28m. Group finance sufficient to sustain its p growth, and orders are high level.

Thames TV and Capital Radio link in sales drive

Advertising & marketing

Capital Radio, one of the two London commercial radio stations, has linked with Thames Television in a joint advertisement selling exercise. Rate cards offering a combination of television and radio spots are to be mailed out to advertisers and agencies this week.

The package includes radio advertisements in Capital's morning and early afternoon peak listening hours with evening television spots. It is aimed at local advertisers such as retailers and entertainment promoters. Bookings will be handled by either partner but Thames will deal with centralized accounting.

The link between the two media comes as something of a surprise since commercial radio was initially regarded as a direct competitor to the ITV contractors. However, the cutbacks in off-peak TV programming means that there is little overlap in the advertisement times offered.

Meanwhile Capital, which admits to substantial overspending in setting up the station, is continuing its negotiations for additional finance. Initial shareholders were Dominfast with 32.5 per cent, Local News of London with 15 per cent, Rediffusion with 15 per cent, *Evening Standard* with 11 per cent and *The Observer* with 8.50 per cent. It is not yet known whether the extra funds will come from these or from new shareholders.

Buoyant sales

Despite large cutbacks by established users, the advertising industry enjoyed unexpectedly buoyant gross sales in November. Results compiled by Media Expenditure Analysis show a rise of 10 per cent in expenditure on press advertising and 12 per cent in television advertising compared with the same month last year.

The comparative results are distorted by rate increases and discounts but nevertheless indicate a real increase on last year.

The November figures bring the total for the year so far to between 2 and 3 per cent below 1973. The industry, however, is extremely apprehensive about the early part of next year.

Many large food manufacturers including Cadbury Schweppes, Heinz and Unilever have sharply reduced their spending on advertising this year. The reasons given for the cuts range from shortages of packaging materials to competitive pressures.

Food manufacturers account for between 35 and 40 per cent of television advertising expenditure and widespread reductions could have serious implications for ITV contractors.

Holiday campaign

The Butlin group is battling for an increased share of the British holiday market next year with a £500,000 television and press advertising campaign. The Ladbroke Group is also planning an intensive advertising drive to promote its recently acquired holiday centres.

Patricia Tisdall

Business appointments

New chief for Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters

Mr J. M. T. Hewitt has been elected chairman of Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters' Association. Mr Neill Hill becomes deputy chairman.

Mr Derek Moon has been appointed managing director of Garrard Engineering.

Mr Donald Mathias, chairman of the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association, and chairman of Pedigree Petfoods, has been elected president of the European Pet Food Manufacturers' Association.

Mr C. J. Pumphrey has joined the boards of Carliol Investment Trust and Tyneside Investment Trust.

Mr John Hitchcock has been appointed to the board of Salter Industrial Measurement.

Mr H. Dalton-Brown, manager of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company and chairman of Otjihase Mining Company (Pty) of South West Africa and the Shangani Mining Corporation, has been appointed to the board of "Johnnies".

Mr Gerry Lawler has joined the board of Cymru Buildings.

Mr Len Merchant has become a director of Libra Computing.

Mr Michael Adams joins the board of Foster Brothers Clothing.

Mr Jack D. Newell has been appointed contracts director of Industrial Energy Costs.

Dr Milorad Maksimovic, an executive director of Harris & Dixon, has additionally been appointed as managing director of Veritas Insurance of Lagos.

Mr Fenton Robb has become director of marketing for Scottish Gas.

Mr Alun Davies has been elected chairman of United Kingdom Metal Mining Association. Mr Beville Pain becomes vice-chairman.

Mr B. M. Thornton has been appointed commercial director at Walter Lawrence & Son (Holdings).

Mr J. H. Bancroft and Mr Imre Elek have been made additional directors of West Cumberland Silk Mills.

Mr Peter Sutcliffe has been made sales director of Diamond Shamrock Chemicals.

Mr R. J. W. Crabbe and Mr D. J. Welch have become directors of Sterling Credit Group. Mr Crabbe is chairman of Provident Life Assurance and Mr Welch a director of Bankers Trust International.

Mr John Rothwell, a director of Lowndes Lambert (Northern), has been appointed a director of H. B. Williams, Reeves.

Mr Derek Hayes and Mr Clifford Sandelson have resigned as directors of Orme Developments.

Mr George Ashton has been elected president of the British Independent Steel Producers Association.

Following Mr D. M. Rhead's election as chairman-designate of LCP Holdings, he relinquishes the office of financial director and chairmanship of the engineering sub-group which is now to be constituted as a separate division. Mr D. B. Clark is appointed to the main board as financial director and Mr M. H. Craddock is elected chairman of the engineering division.



The Woolwich

"Society's immense financial strength"

Speech by the Chairman, Mr Alexander Meikle, C.B.E., C.A., F.B.S., to the 127th Annual General Meeting of the Members held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London W.C2, on Tuesday, 17th December 1974.



The past year has been one of changing fortunes.

Interest rate changes

There had been in the preceding July, that is to say in July 1973, the altogether unprecedented increase in Bank Rate (or Bank of England minimum lending rate, call it what you will!) from 7½ per cent to 11½ per cent. Inevitably this led to a fall in the flow of funds to the Society and an increase in withdrawals.

Your Board met this situation by raising the rate of interest on the Society's ordinary share accounts as from 1st October 1973, the first day of the year under review, from 6¾ per cent to 7½ per cent (basic rate income tax being paid by the Society). The initial response to this increased rate was good, producing a net inflow of new capital at about the rate we had been accustomed to earlier in the year.

However, on 13th November 1973 the Bank of England once again raised its minimum lending rate, this time to 13 per cent. The effect on the Society's funds was much a repetition of the previous July experience. A good deal of money was attracted away from building societies by the rates offered by local authorities and also by the competition of income bonds which was not corrected until the Chancellor's Budget in March last.

Your Board preferred not to raise the rates of interest then offered to investors as this would have required a still further increase in the already historically high rate of 11 per cent being charged to borrowing members. Nor did we consider it appropriate in the then prevailing financial climate to run down our resources of cash and investments. Indeed throughout this difficult period the Society maintained substantial balances on call or at short notice with banks in addition to our holdings of very short-dated Government securities so that large sums of money were always available if required. And so we were able to meet the position when the savings inflow was matched by withdrawals; we were obliged to cut back our new lending to a level which we felt could be supported by repayments of capital by borrowers, together with interest which our investors leave with us to be added to their capital. We were thus much restricted in the volume of new mortgage business which we could entertain but business did go on and our new advances continued at a level of £100 million per annum.

Government loan

Against this background the Board welcomed the offer by the Government to make available to building societies in the five months from April to August 1974 a loan of, in all, £500 million on condition that participating societies did not increase their main borrowing and lending rates of interest. The Society took its share of these temporary loans. By 30th September £20 million had been received and a further £14 million was received thereafter, of which total £6½ million has already been repaid.

Investment Certificates

In May 1974 an issue of Investment Certificates was announced by the Society. These Certificates offer a return of 1 per cent above the rate payable from time to time on the Society's ordinary share accounts to the investor who is prepared to commit his capital for two years. The present rate of interest on these Certificates is, therefore, 8½ per cent with income tax at the basic rate paid by the Society and the issue has been successful both in attracting new money and in adding to the stability of our capital structure.

These measures – the Government loan and Investment Certificates – together with an easing in the level of short-term interest rates enabled us to increase substantially the volume of new mortgage business in the second half of our year.

In the result, advances for the year totalled £137 million. A disappointing figure when compared with the total of £217 million in the previous year; but a considerably better figure than seemed possible in the early part of the year. At the year-end the volume of mortgage business awaiting completion in the normal course had increased to £50 million. In all we were able last year to help some 20,000 families to buy their own homes.

Total assets exceed £1,000 million

It is pleasant to record that, in this difficult and testing year for all financial institutions, the Society's total assets passed the milestone of £1,000 million. The Society celebrated its Centenary in 1947 when the total assets reached £50 million. Seven years later in 1954 they had doubled to £100 million; and now twenty years on they have increased tenfold to £1,000 million. The number of our members, investing and borrowing, has now passed one million.

At the end of the year our liquid balances amounted to £182 million representing 17.42 per cent of total assets. This is a higher ratio than we are accustomed to see but not unduly high in these uncertain times. I want in particular to underline that these balances were and are liquid. More than £98 million was held in gilt-securities which despite very adverse Stock Exchange prices had a market value of £95 million. Our investments are predominantly short-dated and have a redemption value of £104 million. Indeed most of our securities could have been realised without any loss to the Society. It is a measure of their strength that remains the position today despite the substantial fall in the index of Government securities since the end of our Balance Sheet. The remainder of our investments, some £84 million, were held at seven days' notice with banks and local authorities or in bank certificates of deposit.

The balance of revenue for the year was £1,098,000 which was added a surplus realised on investments during the year of £1,628,000 and against which was charged a transfer of £390,000 to our Staff Pension Fund. Thus the General Reserve at the year-end amounted to £32,687,000.

Although I speak so confidently of the Society's immense financial strength and, indeed, with satisfaction at the way it has coped with the problems of the past year, we are not complacent nor are we oblivious of the problems of others. We know only too well the difficulties facing private housebuilders, with numbers of completed and unsold houses on their hands and new house starts falling to a reported 20-year low at 15,000 in September last, compared, for example, with a monthly average of 19,000 in 1972. It has been and continues to be our policy to maintain a generous allocation of mortgage funds to assist the purchase of existing houses. Builders everywhere will doubtless be encouraged by the current improved availability of building society funds and I hope ere long to see a like improvement in new house sales and starts.

First-time purchasers

We are also concerned about the problems facing first-time purchasers after the upsurge in house prices in 1972/73. But let there be no misunderstanding first-time purchasers are not all young couples, nor are all the young people unable to help themselves. Our own current experience shows that only some 40 per cent of, let me call them, 'first-timers' are under 25 years of age and, taking the country as a whole, the average price paid by these young people was little short of £8,000 towards which they provided an average a deposit of £1,200.

First-timers (of all ages, including some well over 50 years of age) currently account for around 50 per cent of all our new advances. In a few of these cases, only 1 in 6, is the borrower's personal stake in the property less than 10 per cent. Seldom is the period of repayment of the mortgage more than 25 years, and very rarely indeed above 30 years. In the case of young couples a much shorter period is often selected. We start in order to run the mortgage down that much more quickly while the wife continues at work, the period being extended – thus reducing the mortgage repayments – if her earnings cease.

In brief we are doing all we can to assist first-time purchasers and those with mortgage problems are most welcome to discuss them with our managers and staff at our branches.

The current year

Our present interest rate structure which, as I have already said, consists mainly of the combination of a (net) ordinary Share interest rate of 7½ per cent with a mortgage interest rate of 11 per cent is serving our needs adequately for the present. Investments with the Society have been buoyant since the start of our new financial year on 1st October and the demand for home loans is also on a high level. In the two months to 30th November new advances exceeding £40 million were made to 6,500 borrowers.

I would add that over the whole field of our mortgage business the average ratio of our advances to purchase prices is well below 60 per cent. A typical borrower is prepared and usually prefers to put as much as he can of his existing resources into his house.

None of us can foretell the next movement in interest rates generally. But while our 7½ per cent (net) Share interest rate continues to produce a level of investment business which enables the Society to maintain its strong liquid position and a satisfactory outflow of home loans is provided there is no material adverse change meantime in the rate payable by the Society nor further serious falls in the Stock Exchange prices of Government securities we do not expect to have to increase during our current financial year the present mortgage interest rate of 11 per cent.

We say this in the light of our high balance of Reserve and of despite rising costs, remains our reasonable ratio of management expenses. And I assure you that as always the policy of the Board will be cautious and cautious.

I shall submit to you a separate resolution concerning the excellent work of our staff during the past year. Meantime I move: That the Directors' Report together with the Annual Accounts for the year ended 30th September 1974 certified by Messrs Jackson, Pixley & Co, Chartered Accountants, the Society's Auditors be received.

The Vice-Chairman, Sir Oliver Chesterton, will second this motion.

(The resolution having been seconded was duly carried.)

WOOLWICH
EQUITABLE BUILDING SOCIETY
London SE18 6AB

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W E Norton's pace accelerates

Promising first-half profits well ahead" of the £73,000 chieved last term, machine tool erchants W. E. Norton have erformed even better than ex-cted, with much more than ubled profits. On turnover in-eased from £2m to £2.75m, xable earnings bounded from 3,000 to £185,000 for the half September 30 and the "avail-le" from £34,000 to £89,000. e half-time payment is 0.45p ainst 0.37p on which there are ivers on 1.76 million shares. For the rest of the year all pears to be going well. In-ming orders continue at a gh level, and results for the ll 12 months to March 31 ould be better than any pre-ously reported.

ooper Inds at nterim peak

Turning in a record £1.5m t year, Cooper Industries, the dlands steel, engineering and ilding group, maintained the ce in the opening half to tober 31 with best-ever half-me earnings. Pre-tax profit panded 14 per cent to 37,000, on turnover 26 per nt higher at £12.09m. The erim dividend is 0.52p against adjusted 0.49p, and it is pected that the final will be maximum permitted.

Tax figures are omitted be-use substantial group and nsortium relief will be avail-e which cannot be accurately ntified at present. But the charge will be minimal. It also expected that deferment tax in excess of £250,000 will obtained by stock relief pro-ions.

t Factors

Announcing taxable profits last term up 46 per cent to 6,000 Mr John McQueston, irman of International Fac-s (75 per cent owned by yds & Scottish and 25 per nt by First National Bank of nton), told shareholders the ume of business handled rose £102m with the international e accounting for 26 per cent. nings were up from 24.7p 31.9p a shares.

Diffusion-Shipton

ound Diffusion has sold back Bankers Trust International *the equity of Shipton Automation, originally acquired in 1973. The initial cash consideration of £6.2m from the resale will be used to pay off the advance incurred at the time of the original purchase and interest.*

The deal means that SD has not suffered any loss from the deal and may even make a profit from the resale.

Normand to rally from poor start

An interim slip in profits from £383,000 to £364,000 before tax at Normand Electrical Holdings prompted a decline in the share price yesterday, although the board predict that profits for the full year should be similar to the £665,000 record achieved last year.

Shareholders will be paid an interim of 1.17p, against 1p gross, and the final is also to be raised by the maximum allowed by the Treasury. Order books are strong for the rest of the year, and production is being stepped up.

Lindsay & Williams leaping ahead

The revitalised Lindsay & Williams is consolidating its return to the dividend list by adding a second interim of 1.49p to that already declared, bringing the total for the 10 months to October 31 to 2.98p (against 2p for the whole of 1969).

Taxable profits for the 10 months are £250,500, against £29,000 for the whole of last year, and include an exceptional profit of £58,000.

The board would like shareholders to receive some further benefit when the final figures are in, and subject to Treasury consent, a final is to be paid. There will also be a dividend-scrip option.

Pilkington-St Gobain venture postponed

Plans of British glassmaker Pilkington Brothers for a £29m float glass plant in Sweden to be built at Halmlstad received a setback yesterday with news that negotiations with Saint-Gobain-Pont-a-Mousson, its French rival, had been broken off. According to company officials in Paris, St Gobain want to postpone the joint venture until 1980, essentially because of present economic difficulties. Meanwhile, it will continue to expand the activities of its Swedish subsidiary, Emmaboda Glaswerke, and develop the production of double-glass windows for insulation.

World-wide St Gobain produces about 4,500 tonnes of float glass daily under licence from Pilkington, but produces none in Scandinavia.—Agencies.



Mr Walter Norton, chairman of W. E. Norton: Indications of a record year.

PAHANG CONSOLIDATED

Company received subscriptions for 4.28m shares in response to its rights issue. Balance of about 3.71m shares (46 per cent) taken by underwriters.

W. CROWTHER

Pre-tax profits £445,000 (£432,000) for half-year are not strictly comparable because the 1973 period included three subsidiaries sold in April this year. Net effect of these disposals in full year would be to reduce profits by £108,000. Company is in British Land group.

BATLEYS OF YORKSHIRE

Interim pre-tax £91,000 (£112,000) with earnings 1.2p (1.54p) a share. Dividend 1.04p (1p).

BRENTNALL BEARD

Taxable profits for year, £313,000 (against £359,000). Earnings a share are 8.11p (10.33p). Dividend is up from 3.88p to 4.36p gross.

Mining

Unicorp—a new factor emerges

Cape buying pushed the Union Corporation share price up another 14p to 464p yesterday—although the Gold Fields of South Africa bid, now worth about 500p, was the other major impetus.

It is now thought that the South African Mutual insurance group has recently raised its stake from 3.2 to about 5 per cent of the Unicorp equity. With General Mining with about 28 per cent still opposed to the bid, and likely to remain so after the formal documents appear from GFSA, and with Charter Consolidated standing on the side lines with 10 per cent, the Mutual could well have the decisive vote as to the otcome of the offer.

The annual statements from the six Unicorp mines covering the nine months to end-September take a generally bullish line overall. Pride of place inevitably goes to the new Unisel mine where production is now expected to begin in August, 1978. It is hoped to improve productivity substantially by increased mechanization in the *stopes with experimental work* now being acrried out at St Helena.

Reserves at St Helena are now estimated at 13.3m tons with a grade of 12.8 g/t at a gold price of R3,500 kg ($156oz) compared with 11.5m last year when the grade was 14.9 g/t and calculated on R2,000 kg ($98oz). The new reduction plant will involve expenditure of R22.5m, of R22.5m, of which R5.4m is attributable to processing Unisel production.

A warning, however, comes from Leslie where it is stated that values exposed in the *western portion of the lease* have not been encouraging. Unless there is a substantial improvement in the gold price the potential reserves of the mine can only be extended marginally. At current price, Leslie may have another five or six years' profitable life left. A further capital repayment of 10c will be made next year.

Mitchell Cotts Group Limited

1973/74 Results



Chairman—Mr. J. K. Dick C.B.E., F.C.A.

	£'000	Increase over 1972/73
Profit before Interest and Taxation	10,649	33%
Profit before Taxation	9,147	34%
Funds Employed	53,298	19%
Return on Funds Employed	20%	12%

Earnings per Ordinary Share **7.53 pence**

Dividends per Ordinary Share

Interim—	0.656 pence
Proposed Final—	2.114 pence
Total for the year—	2.770 pence
Dividend Cover	**2.65 times**

Principal activities of the Mitchell Cotts Group	Profit Contribution
Engineering	40%
Agriculture	24%
Transport, Shipping & Storage	24%
Vehicle Distribution	6%
Commodity Trading	6%
	100%

MC Mitchell Cotts Group Limited,
Cotts House, Camomile Street, London, EC3A 7BJ.
Telephone: 01-283 1234

For a copy of the annual report and accounts please contact the Secretary

Union Corporation Group

GOLD MINING COMPANIES

Points made in the statements by the Chairmen Mr. E. Pavitt and Mr. L. W. P. van den Bosch

* **Average gold price received approximately R3,300 per kg (US $147 per oz.)**
* **Continuing inflation emphasises gold's traditional role as store of value**
* **Long term future for gold continues to be encouraging**
* **Cost increases contained below industry average**
* **Group placing emphasis on training schemes and better use of work force to combat cost increases and labour shortage**

WINKELHAAK MINES LIMITED

Instruction to artisan aides, which began last year, and a recently introduced programme of more advanced training for black team leaders shows signs of promise for the greater utilisation of the labour force in general. Partly as a result of this training and through a reorganisation of the distribution of labour employed on less essential operations, it was possible to increase the tonnage milled despite a 10 per cent *reduction in the underground labour strength.*

If we are to use to best effects the advantage the higher gold price has brought us, cost increases will have to be kept to more manageable levels. In addition to our own efforts to increase productivity much will depend on the Government's efforts to combat inflation.

Although stope production has not been seriously affected by the shortage of labour, any further reduction in the numbers of workers will inevitably curtail production.

KINROSS MINES LIMITED

The full effects of taxation and lease consideration were felt for the first time this year and these payments increased to R9.1 million. No. 2 Shaft has been completed to a depth of 733 metres below surface and should be completed in February 1976. The total cost of the shaft on completion is now estimated at R16 million. A borehole drilled as a pregrouting hole for No. 2 Shaft intersected the Kimberley Reef at a depth of 1,645.90 metres and 61.22 grams of gold per ton were assayed over a channel width of 53.1 centimetres yielding 3,251 centimetre grams. Although at this stage very *little reef has been exposed,* development from No. 1 Shaft carried out in the vicinity of the sinking shaft, has confirmed the borehole indications.

As mentioned in previous reports, the estimated *payable tonnage based on borehole evaluations in the* new area is not considered sufficient to warrant an increase in tonnage milled. However, before any final assessment of the potential of the northern area can be made, considerable development work will have to be done.

LESLIE GOLD MINES LIMITED

The rate of development was decreased for the period under review as a result of the inclusion of previously demarcated marginal grade blocks. However, results continue to be disappointing and values exposed in the western portion of the lease area have not been encouraging. For this reason and taking into account the substantial increase in working costs, it is considered that the potential reserves of the mine can only be marginally extended unless a substantial increase in the gold price occurs. At the current prices we anticipate that the mine will still have another five to six profitable years ahead of it.

In view of this a further repayment of capital amounting to 10 cents per share will be made to shareholders during the 1975 financial year.

BRACKEN MINES LIMITED

At the higher gold prices it was possible to decrease the rate of development and by including a number of previously marginal blocks, maintain the level of ore reserves. In the northern areas and in the area under option on the farm Witkleifontein in the far north, where development has been concentrated, low values have continued to be exposed. For this reason and taking *into account the substantial increase in working costs,* it is considered that the potential ore reserves will only be marginally extended by the recent increases in the gold price. As such, we anticipate that the mine will still have another seven to nine years of production.

ST. HELENA GOLD MINES LIMITED

Preparations are being made at No. 8 Shaft to develop a drive on 18 Level into the Ongegund area to investigate the values disclosed by earlier surface drilling.

In my statement last year, I mentioned that consideration was being given to the replacement of the existing reduction works which is proving expensive to operate and maintain after having been in operation for 23 years. A decision has been reached to go ahead with the construction of a new reduction works at an estimated cost of R22.5 million of which some R5.4 million is attributable to capacity to meet the requirements of an agreement entered into with Unisel Gold Mines Limited. The programme is scheduled for completion in 1977.

Together with expenditure to be incurred under the agreement with Unisel, your Company will be involved over four years in the financing of capital works to the extent of an estimated R26.4 million. This figure assumes a cost escalation of 15 per cent per annum. The bulk of this financing will be internally generated through amounts already transferred to reserves and the deferment of taxation. A sum of R3 million has also been raised from the National Finance Corporation. It is anticipated that dividend distributions will not be inhibited as a result of the capital expenditure programme.

UNISEL GOLD MINES LIMITED

A start was made in August of this year on the shaft collar excavation and the construction of the headgear and winder foundations. Preparatory work for the construction of the road and rail facilities from St. Helena mine are also underway. All preliminary work and pregrouting of the shaft site is on schedule and it is expected that full scale sinking of the shaft will commence in the second quarter of 1975.

In planning the mine, due attention is being given to opportunities for mechanisation, thereby increasing productive output per man. Experiments, to find a way of achieving improved mechanisation in the stopes, are being carried out on a Union Corporation group mine.

In the Consulting Engineers' report which accompanied the prospectus, it was stated that provided no unforeseen difficulties arose, the shaft would be completed early in 1977. Underground development and stope preparation should take a further eighteen months, during which time trial milling will be carried out. On these estimates, the mine will be brought into production by August 1978.

Results for the nine month financial period ended 30th September 1974 (compared with results for the previous twelve months)

Name of Company	Tons Milled '000	Gold produced Kg.	Net Profit R'000	Dividends cents per share	Ore Reserves Tons '000	Ore Reserves value gms/ton
Bracken	771 (1,038)	6,375 (10,139)	5,687 (5,108)	51 (31)	2,500 (1,800)	9.0 (12.3)
Kinross	1,168 (1,506)	8,404 (12,258)	9,920 (13,237)	50 (46)	8,500 (6,500)	8.2 (10.0)
Leslie	1,092 (1,458)	5,754 (9,184)	4,233 (4,080)	32* (19)*	4,200 (2,500)	6.5 (7.7)
St. Helena	1,708 (2,311)	19,478 (29,364)	20,258 (17,638)	230 (130)	13,300 (11,500)	12.8 (14.9)
Winkelhaak	1,530 (1,930)	11,578 (16,370)	10,184 (9,177)	94 (48)	10,000 (7,500)	9.0 (10.2)

Ore Reserves calculated at a gold price of:- 1974 R3,500 per kilogram
1973 R2,000 per kilogram

* Includes 10 cents capital repayment

Copies of the full reports of the gold mining companies (all of which are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa) for the nine months ended 30th September 1974 are available from the London Secretaries, Union Corporation (U.K.) Limited, 95 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7BS.

BRITISH EMPIRE SECURITIES AND GENERAL TRUST LIMITED

The Eighty-fifth Annual General Meeting of British Empire Securities and General Trust Limited was held on 17th December, 1974, in London. The following is the statement by R. P. Laurie, the Chairman, which has been circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1974 :—

Despite the fact that, thanks largely to take-over bids and redemptions, your company has benefited from substantial capital profits during the exceptionally difficult year under review the value of our securities has regrettably fallen by some 40.6 per cent. This compares with a fall of 55 per cent in the Financial Times Index over the same period.

The net asset value of our Shares at the year end was 7.2p per share.

Our revenue, however, has shown a satisfactory increase and your Directors have at least been able to fulfil the aim of increasing shareholders' income by raising the total dividend for the year to 0.50p per share. Provided that the economic crisis facing the country does not degenerate into chaos, they feel reasonably confident that this level can be maintained in the current year.

The two large holdings of Treasury Stock in the list of the twenty-four largest holdings provide for the redemption of our debenture stocks on their due dates.

I referred a year ago to the approaching necessity for the people of this country to face the straight choice between capitalism or a corporate state. Be it by choice or by default we are now at the mercy of politicians who, while paying lip service to a mixed economy, openly threaten the ability to save and the fruits of investment to the individual, and advocate state control and regimentation under the banner of social justice. There will no doubt be at worst one more chance for the final choice to be taken ; let us hope that it will not be taken lightly.

Tricoville

Design and marketing of fashionwear

Highlights from the statement by the chairman Mr. D. A. Jacobs FCA, for the year to 19 July 1974

- Thirteen years of unbroken sales and profit growth
- New premises can double present throughput
- Further growth in sales and profits expected
- Pre-tax profit up 15%

Comparative statistics	1974 £000's	1973 £000's	1972 £000's
Turnover	3,282	2,653	1,778
Profit before taxation	296	256	181
Issued capital and reserves	517	400	282
Earnings per share	8.05p	8.03p	5.98p

A copy of the report and accounts is available from: The Secretary, Tricoville Limited 91-93 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6DP

ALLIED LONDON PROPERTIES LTD
9 HINDE STREET WIM 5RG

SATISFACTORY RESULTS

★ Profits Up £30,000 to £794,067
★ Final Dividend-14·895% (maximum permitted)
★ Earnings per share 6·6p up from 6·1p

Montague L Meyer Limited
Interim Report
UNAUDITED GROUP RESULTS

	6 months ended 30th September 1974 £'000	6 months ended 30th September 1973 £'000	Year ended 31st March 1974 £'000
TURNOVER	73,000	64,000	142,000
TRADING PROFIT	7,795	9,504	16,919
Depreciation	(787)	(578)	(1,343)
Interest Payable	(2,723)	(902)	(3,005)
Additional Pension Contributions	—	—	(1,512)
		8,024	11.059
Investment Income	4,285	25	27
Share of Profits of Associated Companies*	5	—	1,738
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	4,290	8.049	12,824
Taxation	(2,301)	(4.541)	(6.684)
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	1.989	3.508	6,140
Minority Interests	(163)	(105)	(151)
Extraordinary Item**	(179)	—	—
PROFIT AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	£1,647	£3,403	£5.989

* Attributable profits of Associated Companies are not included at the half year.

** Arising on re-alignment of the Australian dollar.

In the first half of the current financial year gross profits were in line with the reduced percentage level permitted under the Price regulations, but net profits were depressed by increased interest charges. A direct comparison with the first six months of the previous financial year should make allowance for the fact that Group profits were then in excess of the levels permitted, a situation which was subsequently corrected by giving discounts to customers.

Stocks have been valued with proper regard to market conditions.

In the second half of the financial year turnover and profits are likely to show some reduction. However, stocks are being steadily reduced, forward purchase commitments are light, and the Group will be a major beneficiary of the Budget proposals whereby payment of corporation tax will be deferred. As a result borrowings and interest charges, which are already falling, will show a further reduction.

The Group has the resources to benefit from the expected revival in low cost housing construction.

The dividends on the Preference and Preferred Ordinary Shares for the period absorb £5,000 (1973 £5,000). The Board has declared an interim dividend of 0.9p per share (1973 0.7p) on the Ordinary Share Capital, which will absorb £368,000 (1973 £286,000). It is anticipated that the final dividend for the year ending 31st March 1975 will be 1.08p per share, making a total of 1.98p per share, which is the maximum permitted under the current regulations.

The interim dividend will be paid on 7th February to holders on the Register on 10th January 1975.

Millbank House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Jump of 24pc by Pleasurama

Including a contribution of £232,000 from an associated company, which last year made a loss) taxable profits of Pleasurama have jumped 24 per cent to £650,000—a new record. The shares rose 2 points to 23p on the news.

Turnover for the year to September 30 rose from £3.2m to £3.7m. Net profits rose from £220,000 to £313,000, while the board is raising the final from 1.06p to 1.32p gross, giving a total for the year of 2.32p, against 2.06p. A dividend scrip option is proposed. Earnings a share are 5.1p, against 3.6p.

During the year, the board reports that the company's four bingo halls and a small hotel were sold in Scotland, because they were making a poor return. Since October 1, the group has contracted to acquire small casinos in Glasgow, Portsmouth and Southampton for a total consideration of £71,000. This will bring the number of casinos owned to 10.

Confidence at Central Mfg

As long as Central Manufacturing & Trading maintains a "firm grasp" of its objectives for carefully planned growth and adheres to the guidelines it has established, there is "little doubt" the company will realize better-than-average sales and earnings growth, Mr Norman Hickman, chairman, writes in his review.

Current trading is at a higher level but a forecast is "almost impossible".

De Wendel has 15 pc of Firminy

De Wendel steel group, which had built up a stake between 10 and 11 per cent, bought a further 75,000 Marine Firminy shares at prices between 156 and 160 francs on December 13. This means it now owns about 15 per cent of Marine, excluding any further purchases made yesterday.—Reuter.

Wearra cuts payout

Although turnover for the year to September 30 is ahead from £4.9m to £5.1m, taxable profits are down from a record £381,000 to £141,000. On retained profts of £19,000, against £157,000, the dividend is cut from 1.89p to 1.42p gross.

Interim profits declined from £205,000 to £104,000, while the second-half contributed only £37,000, against £176,000.

Healey Motor sale

Designer of the Healey range of cars, Mr Donald Healey, has sold his company, Donald Healey Motor Co, to Midlands leisure group Hamblin, which has about 20 motor companies in the region. Mr Geoffrey Healey, son of Mr Donald Healey, and a director of Jensen, said the chief interest of both his father and self was the design and engineering of motor cars, on which they would concentrate.

Samuel Props profit and dividend down

After an interest charge which soared from £1.13m to £2.76m pre-tax profit of Samuel Properties, the developer which earlier this year became one of the first British groups to undertake a major letting in Germany, was almost halved from £1.81m to £948,000 last term. The final dividend is cut from an adjusted 2.35p to 0.24p

After a rather lower tax charge of £648,000 and a transfer from capital reserves of £394,000 (£153,000) relating to development properties, the profit available for the dividend is cut from £1.18m to £690,000. Earnings are down from 4.25p to 2.49p.

At halfway the company had been slightly ahead at £1.1m (£1.04m) pre-tax, full-year profits in excess of £1m, compared to £758,000 last year.

Some decline forecast at Mitchell Cotts

Mr J. K. Dick, chairman of the Mitchell Cotts Group, forecasts in his statement it can be reasonably expected that the net profit for the current period will turn out to be between the 1973 and 1974 figures. The respective attributable figures were £2.95m and £3.68m.

Further, he says, if this proves to be a fairly accurate forecast the board feels the total dividend should be raised by the maximum amount of 12½ per cent which, as things stand, would increase the total from 4.12p to 4.64p.

He points out, though, that in a company such as Mitchell Cotts there are whole areas where the most careful appraisals can still prove to be wide of the mark. In some divisions there can be a close approximation of what results will be. But in other, and usually more important fields, there are political, economic and commercial imponderables which make the task inevitably more difficult.

Stock markets

Good rises in golds

Stock markets had another comfortable session yesterday, helped again by a relaxation of tensions in the foreign exchange centres. There was considerable activity on the gold mining pitches after London bullion quotations had risen strongly behind the agreement by France and the United States that countries might upvalue official gold holdings to current market prices. But turnover in both gilts and equities remained relatively light.

The *FT* index extended its recovery from recent "lows" to close 3.4 up at 159.2 Recorded bargains for equities fell to a mere 4,940—while amplified figures for Monday disclosed a money total of only £28.7m.

Attention in the gilt-edged market yesterday moved from the short-dated stocks to the "long end" of the list.

In the wake of a good advance in "shorts" over the last two working days, steady and persistent demand was seen for "mediums" and "longs", with gains of ½ point common. In many cases, prices closed at the day's best levels. Turnover was described by one jobber as "fair to good".

Meanwhile, after a firm opening, short-dated stocks ran into profit-taking and inched back to about over-night levels, where they closed after steady two-way trading.

Dealers said that turnover in this sector was lower than in the last two sessions. The short-dated "tap" was not operative.

Gold shares opened with gains of about £1, after overnight communiqués from the Martinique meeting of Presidents Ford and Giscard d'Estaing. But profit-takers quickly moved in and rises were cut back. Then came a $6 rise in gold at the London fixing and share prices soared afresh, with demand coming from the Continent : the United States.

Closing prices—the best the session—showed gains of to £1.50 in FS Geduld (£26) Steyn (£19) and Western H ings (35½). Also higher w Unisel (305p), Western A (630p) and AA Corp (328p

The Franco-American acc on oil price policies helped major oil shares. Confirma of higher petrol prices week had little effect bec the news had been widely pected. BP (210p) closed up, but gains in Burmah (103p) and Shell (133p) w small.

Turnover in the indust shares was light. Lighthea interest was shown in "issue" of "weevil badges' a member of a leading jobl firm. After opening at 10p, badges commanded prices 20p and 25p, with turnover lieved to range to around of the 1,000 badges availa Mr Wilson referred to s City operators as "weevils' a speech at the Labour P Conference.

Shares in BLMC—m cheaper than "weevil badg —as at least one broker c mented—closed unchanged their low of 6½p ahead of day's preliminary results.

The international favour like ICI (123p), Unile (170p), Glaxo Holdings (19 and Courtaulds (57p) all u aged minor gains.

Disappointing results fi Rothmans International the shares unchanged at 1 after thin turnover.

Equity turnover on Decem 16, £28.7m (9,827 bargai Active stocks yesterday acc ing to Exchange Telegraph, C Goldfields, Burmah Oil, B BP, Shell, GEC, ICI, Ur Corp, GKN, Commercial Un

Latest dividends

All divdends in new pence or appropriate currencies.

Company (and par values)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Batleys of Yorks (10p) Int	1.04	1	—	—	3.68
Brentnall Beard (10p) Fin	2.56	2.18	—	4.36	3.88
Brit Oxygen (25p) Fin	2.1	2	2/4	—	3.15
Brunner Inv (25p) Fin	2	1.87	16/8	3.62	3.25
Centremay (10p) Int	1.3	1	—	—	2.5
Cooper Inds (10p) Int	0.52	0.49†	1/4	—	0.94†
Cranleigh & Co (5p) Int	Nil	1.07	—	—	1.07
Greenal Whitley (25p) Fin	1.88	1.69	1/4	2.97	2.69
Imp Cont Gas (£1) Int	2.81	3	—	—	9.05
Keystone Inv (50p) Fin	4.12	3.78	—	5.97	5.28
Lindsay & Williams (25p) Int	1.49	Nil	12/1	2.98§	Nil
Marley (25p)	0.12	—	6/3	4.25	4.13
Moot L. Meyer (25p) Int	1.35	1	7/7	2.97*	2.63
W. E. Norton (5p) Int	0.45	0.37	24/2	—	0.87
Pleasurama (5p) Fin	1.32	1.06	—	2.32	2.06
Rothmans Int (12½p) Int	0.56	0.81	30/1	—	1.70
Samuel Props (25p) Fin	0.24	2.35†	14/2	1.49	3.6††
Wstn Motor (25p) Int	Nil	1	—	—	2.75
Wheeler's Restnts (10p) Int	2.2	2	13/1	—	6

† Adjusted for scrip. * Forecast. § Total to date.

Issues & Loans

British Tar's one-for-four rights

British Tar Products is raising £237,000 by a one-for-four rights issue at 11p. The proceeds will be used to build new plant for producing chlorinated organic intermediate chemicals.

The company has obtained Treasury approval to double its dividends this year to 2p, which gives a yield of 18.2 per cent at the rights issue price. The shares closed steady yesterday at 16p.

BTP's first-half profits rose from £270,000 to £573,000 and the directors are forecasting

Local Authorities

The coupon on local authority yearling bonds has risen from 14¼ per cent to 14¾ per cent this week with an issue price of par.

Authorities making issues included: Rochdale, Lerwick, Lichfield, Cumbernauld, Derwentside, Malvern Hills, Arfon, Chester, Derby, Forest Heath, Newport, Southampton, Edinburgh, Peebles, Camden, Clackmannan, Hart.

Norsk Hydro loan

Norsk Hydro AS, the energy, chemical and aluminium producer which is 51 per cent owned by the Norwegian Government, is seeking a $200m, eight-year bank loan,

The loan is unusual in that the borrower itself is syndicating the loan among relationship banks rather than having its bankers arrange the syndication. The agent for the loan is Chase Manhattan in London.

Norsk Hydro is believed to be offering to pay 1.5 points above London interbank offering rates for Eurodollars for the loan. In addition it will pay a management fee.

British Investment Trust: of the original loan of Sw.Fr. 30m arranged in June, 1972, for a period of five years, the outstanding balance of Sw.Fr 20m was finally repaid last week.

The authorised capital of the British Bank of the Middle East has been increased to £15m by the creation of 10m new shares of £1 each. All the shares have been allotted for cash, at par, to the parent company, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Wheeler's up 60 pc

Picking up from last term's slump profits of Wheeler's Restaurants spurted 60 per cent to £180,000 pre-tax in the half-year to September 30, and the dividend goes up from 2p to 2.2p.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

	Bid	Offer
$ STRAIGHTS		
Airlease 8¾ 1988	74	77
American Motors 9 1989	80	82
Anglo-American 7¾ 1987	67	70
Ashland 8 1987	84½	85¾
Australewis 8 1987	87¼	88¼
BICC 7¾ 1987	61	64
Bluebell 7¾ 1987	68	72
Bristol 8¼ 1979	87	89
British Steel Corp 8¾ 1989	78	81
Burlington 7¾ 1987	83¼	84¼
Cadbury 7¾ 1990	61	64
Carrier 8 1987	83¼	84¼
Colombia 8¼ 1988	89	91
Cons Food 7¾ 1991	82¼	83¼
Copenhagen County Auth 7¾ 1987	77	78½
Coventry 8¾ 1981	87	89
Coventry 8¾ 1980	85	87
Caracas Tokyo 8¾ 1988	86	86
Cutler Hammer 8 1987	87¾	88¼
Dana 8 1987	82¼	83¼
Denmark Kingdom 7¾ 1990	79	80
Denmark Mige Bank 7¾ 1991	74¾	75¾
Dundee 9¾ 1985	85	87
Escom 9¾ 1989	85	87
EIB 8¼ 1988	87	89
Eurona 8¾ 1989	87	89
First Chicago 7 1980	91	92
First Pennsylvania 7¾ 1984	78	82
Fisons 8¼ 1987	69	72
GATX 8¼ 1987	85	88
General Cables 8¾ 1987	82	83
Guardian Royal 8 1987	70	75
GHM 7¾ 1988	80	81
Hambros 7¾ 1987	69	72
Hammersly 8 1987	74	76
Hilton 7¾ 1987	55	60
ICI 7¾ 1992	68	71
Internat Util 8¼ 1992	69¼	71¼
Kleinwort 8¼ 1987	70	73
Lancashire 9¾ 1981	89	91
Legal & Gn Ass 7¾ 1988	70	73
Manchester 8¼ 1981	84½	86½
Mexico 8¾ 1991	78	81
Michelin 7¾ 1988	79	80
Mitsubishi 9 1989	88	90
Motorola 8 1987	88	89
Nat & Grindlays 7¾ 1987	68	71
Nat Coal Board 8¾ 1983	78	81
Norges Komm 7¾ 1990	80¼	81½
N. A. Rockwell 7¾ 1979	93¼	94½
N. A. Rockwell 8¼ 1987	83	84
Nottingham 8¾ 1979	88	90
Pacific Lighting 8 1988	83	84
Pennwalt 8 1987	83¾	84¾
Quebec Hydro 8½ 1989	92	93
Quebec (Prov) 7¾ 1988	84¼	85¼
Queensland 8¼ 1987	83¼	84¼
Ralston 7¾ 1987	86	87
RHM 8 1988	70	73
SAS 8 1987	83¼	83¾
Scanraff 7¾ 1990	85¼	86¼
Scanraff 8¾ 1988	91	92
Shell 7¾ 1987	86	87
Singapore 7¾ 1987	82	
Slough 8 1988	47	50
South Africa 8 1987	71	74
SIS 7¾ 1987	84¼	85¼
Standard Oil 8¾ 1980	99	100
Standard Oil 8¾ 1988	93¾	94¾
Standard Oil 8¾ 1988	95¾	96¾
Sybron 8 1987	83¼	84¼
Tenneco 7¾ 1979	93¾	94¾
Tenneco 7¾ 1987	78¾	79¾
Texaco 7¾ 1987	79	80
Town & City 8 1988	35	40
Transocean Gulf 7½ 1987	87	88
Union Oil 7 1979	92¾	93¾
Union Oil 7¾ 1987	86¾	87¾
UDT 8¾ 1988	55	60
Utah 7½ 1979	92¼	93¼
Utah 8 1987	83	84
Venezuela 8¼ 1987	90	92
Volvo 8 1987	80¼	81¼
Welcome 8¾ 1987	65	68
Wm Glyn 8¼ 1987	71	74
NON-$ BONDS		
BASF (FF) 7¾ 1987	70	72
BASF (FF) 7¾ 1987	65½	66½
Bal Int Fin (FF) 7¾ 1987	67¾	69¾
Brascan (DM) 8¼ 1988	89¾	90¾
BLMC (FF) 7¾ 1987	55	58
Charter (FF) 7¾ 1987	56	59
Charter (DM) 6¾ 1968/83	72	73
Courtalds (DM) 6¾ 1989/84	75	76
Denmark (DM) 9¾ 1989	96¼	97¼
Denmark (FF) 7¾ 1988	71	73
EIB (FF) 7¾ 1988	68½	70½
Escom (DM) 7¾ 1985/88	66	67
Estel (DM) 7¾ 1988	86½	87½
Goodyear (DM) 6¾ 1973/87	72	73
ICI (DM) 8 1971/86	86¾	87¾
Lafarge (FF) 7¾ 1987	70	72
Nat West (DM) 8 1988	79¾	80¾
Occidental (DM) 6½ 1969/76	96	97
Suedafrica (DM) 8¼ 1970/85	85	84
Sun Int Fin (DM) 7¾ 1988	83½	84¾
Trans Euro Pipeline (DM) 8 1993	79	80
Voest-Alpine (DM) 8½ 1988	92	93
$ CONVERTIBLES		
AMF 5 1987	49	51
Alaska Int 6 1987	37	39
American Express 4¼ 1987	66¼	68¼
American Motors 6 1992	49	—
American Medical 5¾ 1992	33	35
Beatrice Foods 4¾ 1992	67	69
Beatrice Foods 6¾ 1991	86	88
Beatrice Foods 4¾ 1993	73	75
Bordon 5 1992	76	78
Borden 5¾ 1991	87	89
Broadway Hale 4¼ 1987	59	61
Carnation 4 1987	65	67
Cummins 6¾ 1986	71	72
Damon 5¾ 1987	73	75
Dart 4¾ 1987	73	75
E Asia Navigation 6¾ 1989	42	44
Economic Labs 4¾ 1987	65	67
Eaton 5 1987	59	61
Ford 6 1988	61½	63¾
Ford 5 1986	73	75
Feddars 5 1992	29	31
Gillette 4¾ 1987	61½	63¾
Gould 5 1987	58	61
General Electric 4½ 1987	59	61
Halliburton 4¼ 1987	103	106
Harts 5 1992	47	49
Honeywell 6 1986	62	64
Hongkong Land Com 7¾ 1988	70	73
ITT 3¾ 1987	53	55
ITT Sheraton 6¼ 1989	71	73
J Ray McDermott 4½ 1987	115	117
J P Morgan 4¼ 1987	99	101
Mohasco 5 1987	50	52
Nabisco 5¾ 1988	71	73
Owens Illinois 4¼ 1987	75	77
J C Penney 4¼ 1987	66	68
Revlon 4¾ 1987	76	78
Ramada 6¾ 1986	41	43
Rank Org 3¾ 1993	32	34
Sime Darby 5¾ 1988	42	44
Sperry Rand 4¼ 1988	71	73
Slater Walker 5¾ 1987	46	48
Southland 5 1987	85	—
Squibb 4¼ 1987	71	73
United Overseas Bank 6¾ 1988	56	58
Warner Lambert 4¾ 1986	69	71
Warner Lambert 4¼ 1987	75	77
Xerox Corp 5 1988	67	69

DM=Deutschmark issue. FF=French Franc issue.

Source: Kidder, Peabody Securities, London.

Foreign Exchange

Dollar declines

The dollar fell to its weakest ever against Swiss francs and German marks on foreign exchanges yesterday. The pound tumbled with it, and its devaluation against the world's major currencies worsened to 21.6 from last night's 21.1 per cent. However, sterling improved against the dollar to $2.3345 from $2.3295 overnight.

Foreign exchange dealers said the dollar's decline began in New York overnight and was continued in London. Swiss "window dressing" operations were tending to depress the American currency as the Swiss central bank failed to provide enough behind-the-market swaps to satisfy the demand for francs for the year-end.

Gold also exerted further downward pressure.

The Franco-American gold reserves agreement was viewed as a considerable compromise for the United States, and the resulting leap on bullion markets had further undermined the dollar.

Sterling, despite reassuring statements that the Arabs would step up investments in Britain, failed to match the performance of the European currencies against the dollar.

Discount market

The Bank of England offset a liquidity shortage in the discount market yesterday by purchasing a moderate amount of Treasury Bills directly from discount houses, market sources said.

The market opened with bank balances run down from overnight and later further money was drained from the market by net take-up of Treasury bills, an outflow of notes and settlements of official gilt sales. However, an excess of gilt disbursements over Exchequer receipts acted to pump funds into the market. The combination of the disbursements which were larger than expected, and the Central Bank assistance acted to drive secured call loan rates down to between 6 per cent and 8 per cent at the close from between 9 and 10½ at the opening.

It is thought the market closed with a surplus to be called forward overnight.

ATTOCK OIL
Group profit for half to June 30 £149,000 (£179,000).

LDN MULTINATIONAL BANK
Profit in fourth year rose 11 per cent to £1.62m pre-tax. Total assets £25.8m).

Wall Street

Dollar declines

New York, Dec 17.—Wall Street stocks were mostly higher, reversing a small initial decline. By noon the Dow Jones industrial average was 3.28 up at 590.11.

IBM gained $2½ to $167¾, while Zerox and Burrough's added fractions. Motors and steels were narrowly mixed while golds rose as much as $3 on the jump in the bullion price.

Du Pont and Eastman Kodak edged higher.

Yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average fell 5.94 to 586.83.

NY silver limit up

New York, Dec 16.—COMEX SILVER futures closed around the days highs up 19.10 to 30.00 cents. Most positions made the upper limits late in the day when short covering followed earlier local trade and speculative buying. The $3.25 rise in the London gold price to $185.00 helped encourage general buying in the late morning. Dec. 446.90c: Jan. 447.90c: Feb. 452.10c: March. 456.40c: May. 464.50c: July. 473. 70c: Sept. 478.10c: Dec. 487.60c: Jan. 490.50c: March. 496.30c. Handy and Harman of Canada Cans$4.350 (previous Cans$4.208.

COPPER steady. 60 to 70 points down on 617 lots. Dec. 55.50c: Jan. 55.90c: Feb. 54.60c : March. 53.30c : May. 56.40c: July. 57.60c: Sept. 58.80c: Dec. 6.60c Jan. 61.20c.

COTTON.—Futures found light support after registering losses of 0.80 to 0.70 cent to finish about 0.25 to 0.40 cent net lower. March. 38.05-35c: May. 38.85-95c: July. 39.65c: Oct. 41.50-51c : Dec. 42.45-50c : March. 43.10-15c : May 43.65-85c.

SUGAR.—Traders said there was no rush seling from long holders who are confident that the market's present corrective phase is only temporary and that levels will be restored on long-term constructive considerations. Jan. 42.07c nominal : March. 42.37 asked : May. 40.27c asked: July. 37.40c asked: Sept. 34.55c asked: Oct. 32.30c asked: March. 28.25c asked: May. 24.25-30c: Sept. 42.05c. off 2.35c.

COFFEE.—Futures in "C" contract closed at or near the day's highs. The spot month finished at 59.00 cents a pound up 1.30 cents for the day's best. Dec. 59.00/40c: March. 60.25-20c: May. 60.80c: July. 61.50c: Sept. 62.30c: Nov. unquoted c: Dec. unquoted c.

COCOA.—Futures closed between 130 and 165 up on 1,285 lots. Dec. 75.50c: March. 75.55c: May. 63.60c: July. 61.30c: Sept. 60.50c: Dec. 57.35c nominal: March. 55.25c nominal: May. 54.20c nominal. Spots. Ghana: 87½c nominal: Bahia 85c.

CHICAGO GRAINS.—WHEAT closed weak eight to 1½ cents lower. Dec. 455c: March. 466-467c: May. 464-466c: July. 426-427c: Sept. 432c: Dec. 442c. MAIZE closed easier 5¼ to 5¾ cents lower. Dec. 351-352c: March. 350½-358½c: May. 359-359½c: July. 356-355c: Sept. 335c: Dec. 298-299½c: March. 340½c. OATS closed easier one to four cents lower. Dec. 184-185½c: March. 177-178c: May. 176¼-176c: July. 172-171c: Sept. 166c nominal: Dec. 164½c nominal.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS. Oil ended with gains of 0.05 to 0.55 cents a lb and Meal gave up $4.70 to $8.10. SOYABEANS.—Jan. 747.45c: March. 764.61c: May. 771.70c: July. 777.15c: Aug. 772.75c: Sept. 740c: Nov. 712.11c: Jan. 717-11c: Jan. 717.5c. SOYABEAN OIL. MEAL. Dec. $154.00-5.00: Jan. $160.00-0.50: March. $164.00-3.00: May. $169.00: July. $173.00: Aug. $174.00-5.00: Sept. $178.00-9.00.

SOYABEAN OIL.—Dec. 37.40c: Jan. 36.50-35c: March. 36.10c: May. 34.05c: July. 33.20c: Aug. 32.40c: Sept. 31.9c.

	Dec 16	Dec 13
Gen Foods	16¾	17¼
Gen. Instr.	4⅞	5
Gen. Mills	37½	39¾
Gen. Motors	31¼	31½
Gen Pub Util N.Y.	10¾	10¾
Gen. Tel. El.	16⅝	16⅝
Gen. Tire	10	10¼
Genesco	3	3
Georgia Pac	28	28⅞
Getty Oil	132	127¼
Gillette	22¾	23¼
Goodrich	13½	13¾
Goodyear	12⅝	13
Gould Inc.	16¾	16¾
Grace	22¾	22⅞
Grant W.T.	12	12
Gt. At. & Pac.	6⅝	6½
Greyhound	16	9⅞
Grumman Cp.	9	9¼
Gulf Oil	17½	17⅝
Gulf Wn. Ind.	21⅝	21⅝
Heinz. H. J.	36¾	37
Hercules.	26	26
Honeywell	19½	19⅝
Illinois Cent Ind	11¼	11¼
Ingersoll	6⅞	6⅞
Inland Steel	30¼	30⅝
I.B.M.	165¾	167¼
Int. Harv.	18½	18⅝
Int. Nickel	19¾	20⅛
Int. Paper	32¾	33⅛
Int. Tel. Tel.	12⅞	13⅛
Jewel Co	16¾	16⅝
Jim Walter	20¾	20¾
Johns Manv.	17	17
Johnson & Johns	63	63¾
Kaiser Alum.	12⅝	12⅝
Kennecott	36¾	36
Kerr McGee	68¾	69½
Kimb. Cls.	24	23⅞
Kraftco Cp.	33¾	33
Kresge S.S.	21¼	22⅞
Kroger	15⅝	15⅝
Ligg. Myer	28	28¾
L.T.V.	8⅞	9
Litton	3⅞	3⅞
Lockheed	3¾	3¾
Lucky Stores	8	8
Magnavox	4	4
Manuf Hanover	24½	25¼
Mapco	27⅞	27¼
Marathon Oil	20¾	21¼
Marcor Inc.	14¾	14¾
Martor Mid	14⅝	14⅝
Martin Mar.	13⅞	13¾
McDonnell	7⅞	8¼
Mead	12¾	13⅛
Merck	95¾	96⅝
Minn. Min.	49⅞	50¾
Mobil Oil	34⅜	35
Monsanto	41½	41½
Morgan. J. P.	25¾	25¾
Motorola	33¾	34¼
NCR Corp	14	14
NL Ind	11½	11⅝
Nat. Bisc.	21¾	22
Nat. Distill.	13	13⅛
Nat. Steel	25¾	25⅞
Norfolk West	59¾	58¾
NW Bancor	33⅞	33¾
Norton Simon	10¾	10⅝
Occ. Pet.	12¾	12⅝
Ogden	13⅝	13⅝
Olin Corp.	15	15
Otis Elev	23	23
Owens Ill.	29	29
Pac. Gas. El.	18½	19¼
Pan. Am	2¾	2¾
Penn. Cent.	1¼	1¼
Penney J C	36½	36¾
Pennzoil	16¾	16⅝
Pepsico	20	20¼
Pet Corp	10¾	10⅝
Pfizer	39	39½
Phelps Dod.	28¾	28¾
Philip Mor.	46¾	46¾
Phill. Pet.	27¾	28
Polaroid	18⅝	18⅝
P.P.G. Ind	25¾	25¾
Proc. Gamble	77¾	78
Pub Ser El & Gas	17¾	18
Pullman	35¾	36¼
Rapid American	5¾	5¾
Raythcon	24¾	24½
RCA Corp	9¾	9¾
Republ. Steel	21¼	22
Reynolds Ind.	45⅝	46¾
Reynolds Metal	14⅝	15
Rockwell Int	18¾	19¼
Royal Dutch	25	25
Safeways	24¾	24¾
St. Regis	19¼	19
Santa Fe Ind	28	28½
Schering Plough	51	53½
Schlumbgr.	106	107½
Scott. Paper	11¾	11¾
Seaboard Coast	37¼	37½
Sears Roe.	45¾	46¾
Shell Oil	48	48½
Shell Trans.	12	12
Signal Co	13¾	13¾
Singer	10¾	10⅝
Sony	5	4⅞
Sth Cal Edison	17½	17½
Southern Pac.	26⅝	26⅞
Southern Rly.	30¾	30¾
Sperry Rand	26⅝	27
Squibb	30¾	30¾
Std. Brands	51⅝	51⅞
Std. Oil Cal.	22½	22⅝
Std. Oil Ind.	41½	83¾
Std. Oil Ohio	39¾	39¾
Sterling Drug	19¾	20⅛
Stevens J.P.	10⅝	10⅝
Stude Worth	21	21
Sunbeam Cp.	11¾	11¾
Sunstrand	11	11¼
Sun Oil	36⅝	36
Teledyne	10⅝	10⅝
Tenneco	21¾	22½
Texaco	21¾	21¾
Texas East Trans	27¾	27¾
Texas Inst.	65¾	64¾
Texas Utilities	19⅝	19⅝
Texatron	13¾	13¾
T.W.A.	5⅝	5½
Travelers Cp.	18⅝	18⅞
T.R.W. Inc.	11¾	12¼
U.A.L. Inc.	13¾	14¼
Unilever Ltd.	14¾	14⅝
Unilever N.V.	30	30
Unionamerica	1⅞	1⅞
Union Bancorp	6¾	6½
Union Carb.	30¾	30¾
Un. Oil C

مكبرا من الأصل

ARKET REPORTS

rises in gol

nother £20 l in sugar

other limit down movement a ton) was recorded in Lon-UGAR prices yesterday. The price was lowered this amount o a long ton, making a drop 20 compared with a month

market finished weak with ng pool carrying 212 lots on Actuals were featureless from vague rumours of pos-buying interest from the

£402.00 limit-down seller; 382.00 limit-down seller. Aug. 0 limit-down seller: Oct. £367.50 wer seller; Dec. £364.00 limit-seller; March, £346.00-7.50; May, 347.50. Sales, 1,045 lots. ISA daily, 43.30c; 17-day average.

R wire bars closed barely steady sh metal £2.50 lower and three £1 down. Afternoon.—Cash rs, £353.00-57.00 a metric ton; months, £355.00-55.50. Sales, tons. Cash cathodes, £357.00; three months, £345.00-46.00. 75 tons. Morning.—Cash wire 353.00-41.50; three months, 60.00. Settlement, £341.50. 4,150 tons. Cash cathodes, 34.00; three months, £345.00. Settlement, £351.00. Sales, 575

prices finished barely steady values advanced between 1.55p Bullion market (fixing levels): 163.0p a troy ounce (United ents equivalent 469.2); three 159.0p (458.6c); six months, 362.9c); one-year, 218.5p London Metal Exchange.—

Times e Indices

ges Share Indices for 17.12.74 (base s 2, 1964 original base date June 2.

	Index No.	Div. Yield	Earnings Yield	Index No.
	Latest	%	%	Previous
s Indus-e index	83.74	14.41	28.52	82.67
ays	64.12	14.29	27.13	62.93
ks	62.55	14.82	33.05	61.83
ioser	82.72	14.17	31.88	81.16
y Goods	71.01	12.95	26.18	70.58
ces	56.70	14.44	17.86	57.79
inancial	79.35	11.40	—	77.59
inancial strial	67.02	13.73	—	65.72
shares	145.89	12.93	26.74	142.06
ing	563.25	5.92	8.25	548.11
stocks	68.47	9.45*	—	68 29
ecurities	60.39	17.19*	—	60.42
Loan	20¾	17.43*	—	20¾

rd of The Times Industrial Share s given below:—

High	Low
198.47 (18.08.72)	60.15 (13.12.74)
136.18 (29.05.74)	60.15 (13.12.74)
189.53 (12.01.73)	120.90 (14.12.73)
198.47 (15.08.72)	114.48 (10.01.72)
174.77 (31.12.73)	122.23 (02.01.73)
145.18 (14.01.70)	110.75 (26.06.70)
171.95 (31.01.69)	122.98 (26.07.69)

* Flat interest yield.

Position erling

	Market rates (day's range)	Market rates (close)
	December 17	December 17
	2.3000-3355	2.3000-3355
	2.3030-3105	2.3035-3105
	5.85-91pf	5.85-86pf
SS	85.60-86.00f	85.85-90f
	13.45-13.45pf	13.45-43pf
	5.64-68m	5.64-68m
	57.30-70s	57.40-60s
	130.85-131.00p	130.85-131.00p
	1528-1530it	1528-1530it
	12.28-30k	12.28-29k
	10.49-56nf	10.45-46nf
	8.61-70fr	8.675-685fr
	698-702y	700-702y
	40.20-40sch	40.20-40sch
	5 91-6 04f	5.93-94f

depreciation since Dec 21, 1971, up Fr.

ard Levels

	1 month	3 months
	1.50-1.00c prem	4.60-4.50c prem
	2.15-2.05c prem	4.65-4.55c prem
	7-6c prem	15-14c prem
	1.55-1.50c prem	4.25-4.00c prem
	6-5½ prem	9½-8½ prem
	1¾-1⅝pf prem	4¾-4⅜pf prem
	30c prem	60c prem
	60c-par	100c disc
	6-5½ disc	17-15½ disc
	11-10½ prem	24-21½ prem
	2c prem-par	5½-5c disc
	1c disc	2c disc
	8-7½pf prem	14-12½ prem
	40-35½ prem	75-65½ prem
	8-6pf prem	21¾-19½c prem

n dollar rate (against US dollar).

ar deposits (%: calls, 6¾-8¾; seven e one month, 10-10½; three months, ed; six months, $166-75 (an ounce); pm,

and (per coin): $220-225 (£140-96½); gs: (old), $63-64½ (£37-37¾; (new), 39-39½.

ey Market

S

ngland Minimum Lending Rate 11½% (Last changed 20/9/74)

Discount Mkt Loans%: Open 8 Close 11⅝ Week Fixed: 10¾-10¾

Treasury Bills (Disc%)

Buying	Selling
10⅝	2 months 10⅜
11⅛	3 months 10⅝

s Bank Bills (Disc%) Trade‡ (Disc%)

12⅝-12¾	3 months 13⅜
13-13⅛	4 months 14
12⅝-13	6 months 13¾
13-13	

Local Authority Bonds

11⅝-11¾	7 months 14-13⅝
13⅜-13½	8 months 14-13⅝
13⅜-13½	9 months 14-13⅝
13⅜-13½	10 months 14-13⅝
13⅜-13½	11 months 14-13⅝
14-13⅝	12 months 14½-14

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

11⅝-11¾	6 months 14-13⅝
13⅜-13½	12 months 14¾-14

Local Authority Market (%)

11-11¼	3 months 13½
11¾-12	6 months 13¾
12¾	1 year 13¾-13⅝

Interbank Market (%)

1 Open 10¾	Close 6
10⅝-11	6 months 13⅝-13¾
11½-11¾	9 months 14
13¾-13½	12 months 14¼

Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%) 13% 6 months 14½

Finance House Base Rate 12%

LAND CONST year to August 31 pre-tax £205,000 (£162,000). Subject ry, final payment of 0.89p otal of 1.48p (nil).

MPSON LI

STIN (LONDON) ax for six months, £118,500 0) from turnover of £1.3m

Bank Base Rates

rclays Bank ..	12 %
NFC	13 %
ll Samuel	●12½ %
Hoare & Co ..	★12 %
oyds Bank ..	12 %
idland Bank ..	12 %
it Westminster	12 %
enley Trust ..	12½ %
nth Cent Bank	12 %
'illiams & Glyn's	12 %

Members of Accepting Houses Committee.

Demands deposits, 11½% £10,000 and over.

7-day deposits in excess of £10,000 up to £25,000 10¼%. over £25,000 10¾%.

8·75%-£13·06%* p.a.
OR NOW
Year Term Share Account (class 4)
cannington Spa uilding Society
*£1 invested for one year at the books rates
Box No. Cannington Spa

Commodities

Afternoon.—Cash, 192.1-92.5p; three months, 198.0-98.2p; seven months, 205.0-06.0p. Sales, 80 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 195.0-96.0p; three months, 200.8-01.0p; seven months, 209.0-09.5p. Settlement, 196.5p. Sales, 100 lots.

TIN very steady. Afternoon.—Standard cash, £3,790-95 a metric ton; three months, £3,030-40. Sales, 545 tons. High grade, cash, £3,040-45; three months, £3,056-45. Sales, nil. Morning.—Standard cash, £3,070-90; three months, £3,050-55. Settlement, £3,090. Sales, nil. Singapore tin ex-works, $M940 a picul.

LEAD quiet. Afternoon. — Cash, £228.75-29.00 a metric ton; three months, £215.25-15.75. Sales, 450 tons. Morning.—Cash, £229.50-30.00; three months, £215.50-16.50. Settlement, £230.00. Sales, 1,750 tons.

ZINC quiet. Afternoon. — Cash, £231.50-32.00 a metric ton; three months, £229.50-30.00. Sales, 2,250 tons. Morning.—Cash, £232.50-33.00; three months, £230.00-30.50. Settlement, £233.00. Sales, 2,250 tons. Producers' price, £260 a metric ton. All afternoon metal prices are unofficial.

PLATINUM was cut £1 to £73.00-75.00 (£170.00-$175.00) a troy ounce.

RUBBER closed uncertain.—Jan, 25.50-26.00p per kilo; Feb, 26.00-26.50p; Jan-March, 25.75-85p; April-June, 27.50-28.00p; July-Sept, 27.75-70p; Oct-Dec, 28.30-35p; Jan-March, 28.65-80p; April-June, 29.00-10p; July-Sept, 29.30-50p. Sales: 211 15-tonne lots.

RUBBER PHYSICALS closed dull. Spot, 25.0-26.50p. Cif's: Jan and Feb, 25.75-26.25p.

WOOL.—Greasy futures closed steady. Dec, 161.0-63.0p per kilo; March, 156.0-62.0p; May, 161.5-63.0p; July, 164.5-65.5p; Oct, 166.0-66.5p; Dec, 167.0-68.5p; March, 169.0-70.0p; May, 168.0-72.0p. Sales: seven lots, including five options.

LONDON JUTE MARKET quiet.—Bangladesh white "C" grade, Dec-Jan, £258.00 nominal. Bangladesh white "D" grade, Dec-Jan, £238.00 nominal a long ton.

CALCUTTA JUTE MARKET quiet.—Indian, Dec-Jan, Rs455; Dec-Feb, Rs455; Dec-Jan, Rs395 a bale at 400lb.

MEAT (Smithfield).—BEEF.—Scotch killed sides (ex RKCF), 27.0-31.0p per lb; heavy English bullocks (ex RKCF) 39.0-40.0p; Ulster hindquarters (ex RKCF), 38.0-39.0p; forequarters, 15.0-16.0p; Eire hindquarters (ex RKCF), 37.0-40.0p; forequarters, 15.0-17.0p. VEAL.—English fats, 30.0-36.0p; bobbies, 8.0p (special quotation) and 6.0-9.0p; Scotch bobbies, 6.0-9.0p; Dutch hinds and ends, 40.0-51.0p. LAMB.—English small, 32.0p (special quotation) and 27.0-30.0p; medium, 27.0-30.0p; heavy, 25.0-27.0p. Scotch medium, 26.0-30.0p; heavy, 25.0-27.0p; hill, 22.0p (special quotation) and 24.0-31.0p; imported frozen, NZD's, 28.5-29.0; 2's, 26.0-27.0p; 3's, 25.0-26.0p; 4's, 24.0-25.0p; YL's, 27.5-28.0p. PORK.—English, under 100lb, 25.0-30.0p; 100-120lb, 24.0-29.0p; 120-160lb, 24.0-29.0p; 160-180lb, 23.0-27.0p; 180lb and over, 23.0-25.0p.

POULTRY (Grade A—Smithfield).—Fresh chickens, 9-3lb and 2-3lb, 19.5-21.0p per lb; 3-5lb, 21.0-25.0p; 5-6lb, 23.0-26.0p; capons, over 6lb, 27.0-33.0p. Hens, under 4lb, 6.0-9.0p; 4-6lb, 10.0-15.0p. Ducklings, 22.0-26.0p. Turkeys, hens, 9-13lb, 30.0-37.0p; 13-16lb, 30.0-35.0p; over 16lb, 30.0-34.0p; cocks, 20-25lb, 24.0-30.0p; over 25lb, 26.0-30.0p.

Oven-ready chickens, up to 2¼lb and 2¼-3lb, 34.0-39.0p; 3-3½lb, 30.0-36.0p; 4lb, 22.0-23.0p; over 4lb, 23.0p; capons, over 6lb, 29.0p. Hens, up to 4lb, 15.0-16.5p; over 4lb, 16.0-16.5p. Ducklings, 26.0-27.5p. Turkeys, 4-7lb, 7-12lb, and 12-19lb, all 26.0-27.0p; 19-25lb, 25.5-29.0p; over 25lb, 26.0-30.0p.

EGGS.—Home-produced: Despite some increased retail interest for the Christmas trading period, the wholesale market is showing signs of not clearing all grades. Substantial quantities of Standards are in evidence. Home-produced prices (based on trading packer/first-hand):

WHITE

	Wed/Thur/Fri	Mon/Tue
Large	£3.10 to 3.40	£3.00 to £3.10
Standard	£2.75 to 3.10	£2.70 to 3.00
Medium	£2.50 to 2.65	£2.55 to 2.65
Small	£2.30 to 2.60	£2.30 to 2.55
BROWN		
Large	£3.40 to 3.60	£3.40 to 3.60
Standard	£2.80 to 3.30	£2.90 to 3.30

All prices quoted are for bulk delivery in 30-dozen trays. The above range is a guide to general market conditions and is dependent upon location, quantity and whether delivered or not.

COFFEE.—Robustas closed barely steady.—Jan, £466.0-67.0 a long ton; March, £477.5-78.0; May, £473.0-74.0; July, £476.0-5.5; Sept, £477.0-78.5; Nov, £478.5-80.0; Jan, £481.0-85.0. Sales: 791 lots, including one option.

ARABICAS closed dull.—Dec, $70.00-70.50 per 100 kilos; Feb, $70.00-70.50; April, $68.00-68.50; Aug, $68.00-68.50; Oct, $68.00-68.70; Dec, $67.50-68.20. Sales: 17 lots.

COCOA barely steady.—Dec, £807.0-08.0 a metric ton; March, £714.0-14.5; May, £656.0-56.0; July, £629.0-30.0; Sept, £586.0-88.0. Sales: 2,485 lots, including three options. ICO prices, daily, 66.31 cents per lb; 15-day average, 65.19c; 22-day, 66.87c.

TEA.—There was a good demand at fully firm rates for the 6,319 packages of Ceylon teas offered, particularly for planter mediums. Inquiry for better sorts, however, was more selective and prices were easier by the close. The South India offering of 1,353 packages met a good general demand at around last rates. The balance of North India and African teas comprised 8,992 packages and held steady on Monday's closing levels. The next auction is on December 30.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring number one 13¼ per cent, Dec, £109.00 transshipment east coast. US dark northern spring, number two, 14 per cent, Dec, £105.50; Jan, £106.40; Feb, £108.05 trans-shipment east coast. US hard winter, number two ord, Feb, £103.25; March, £105.70 trans-shipment east coast. MAIZE.—No 3 yellow American, French, Dec, £70.60; Jan, £70.25; Feb, £70.75 trans-shipment east coast. A long ton, cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta).—SEC origin, BARLEY steady. Jan, £61.20; March, £61.00; May, £66.75. WHEAT, barely steady. Jan, £61.50; March, £64.25; May, £67.20. All a long ton.

SUTER ELECTRICAL

Board expects that company will continue to trade profitably and will be in a position to pay a dividend on results for year. In six months to September 30, pre-tax profit was slightly increased at £46,300 from turnover of £512,000.

CATTLE'S HOLDINGS

Interim results show pre-tax profit trimmed from £369,000 to £352,000 on sales of £11.6m (£9.7m).

Recent Issues

	Closing price
Spot. H. Ord	95
Bristol Wr 10½ Pf(†)	195¾
Callender G Ord	8
Lubo8.12p Cm.1984	£117-½
Mid Sussex Wtr 15½ Db (E90)	194½
Newcastle Wtr 10½ Pf(†)	146½
Southwark Wtr 10½ Red (E98½)	101
United Gold 50pnc	305
UDT 16½ Cnv (£100)	£89-1

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Charlotte (40)	Jan 10	48pm
Pahang Cons (25p)	Jan 10	2½

Issued price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. a £10 paid. b Nil paid.

CREDIT REPORTING

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Barnett Hse, Fountain St, Man 2 061-236 9775
48.1 21.1 Giants 19.2 21.1 5.90
43.0 21.1 Do Accum 20.2 22.1 5.90
37.7 19.8 Growth 18.2 20.0 6.66
45.5 21.8 Income 20.5 21.8 10.66
40.9 21.5 Do Accum 21.5 23.8 10.66
57.5 16.6 Int Accum 15.7 16.9 3.50

Abbey Unit Trust Managers.
73-80 Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks 0296-5941
35.3 19.5 Abbey Capital 18.5 11.3 6.10
47.5 19.2 Abbey General 18.1 19.6 6.69
25.8 11.0 Do Income 12.5 13.4 10.93
25.8 13.4 Do Invest 12.9 13.6 9.45

Allnutt Trust Managers Ltd.
14 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2 01-588 6371
31.7 34.0 Allen Trst 31.8 34.0 4.38
33.1 25.4 Do Income 23.8 25.4 10.47

Allied Hambro Group.
Hambro Rec. Hutton, Essex 01-588 2851
71.6 30.1 Allied Capital 28.8 30.7 2.20
62.7 31.4 Do Ist 30.0 32.0 8.35
52.7 29.3 Brit Ind 2nd 28.1 30.0a 9.24
38.9 17.0 Growth & Inc 16.2 17.2 6.10
32.3 14.8 Elec & Ind Dev 14.0 14.8e 9.51
37.6 24.5 Mct Min & Cmdty 23.6 25.2 7.76
58.3 29.3 High Income 28.0 29.8 9.00
35.6 17.3 Equity Income 16.3 17.4 10.86
24.6 14.7 International 15.7 16.7 2.75
35.0 25.0 High Yield Fnd 23.5 25.0a 13.00
215.0 94.0 Hambro Fund 91.0 93.0 5.97
53.7 22.3 Do Income 21.8 23.2 11.79
96.5 44.3 Do Recovery 42.1 44.9 13.03
30.0 16.3 Do Smaller 15.7 16.4 11.10
25.9 12.3 Do Accum 11.8 12.6e 7.50
36.1 13.7 2nd Smaller 12.8 13.7 9.86
50.8 30.4 Scos of America 29.5 31.9e 3.13
101.0 59.5 Exempt Fnd 54.9 58.5 8.05

Anshacher Unit Management Co Ltd.
2 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7JH. 01-606 4010
42.4 18.6 Nth American 19.8 21.6 4.07

Barclays Unicorn Ltd.
252/6 Romford Road, London, E7. 01-534 5221
25.0 25.0 Unicorn Amer 24.1 25.4a 3.44
39.5 39.7 Aust Income 41.0 44.3 4.68
49.6 42.5 Do Accum 43.8 52.3 4.68
37.6 37.6 Do Capital 38.8 40.4 7.34
25.7 20.2 Exempt * 29.9 31.1e 11.48
35.3 11.1 Extra Income 10.6 11.2 14.49
66.8 25.3 Financial 23.8 25.2 8.54
68.6 26.6 Do Accum 500 25.0 26.7 11.41
34.6 12.0 General 11.6 12.4e 11.41
40.0 14.9 Growth Accum 14.3 15.3 9.44
75.0 30.0 Income 29.1 31.0 11.26
32.0 15.0 Recovery 14.1 15.1 11.06
125.0 46.4 Trustee 45.0 47.9 9.11
50.3 32.4 Worldwide 33.2 35.1 4.69

100.4	96.7	B'tst Inv Fnd	93.8 96.7 7.30
100.4	97.3	Do Accum	94.3 97.3 7.30

Brandts Ltd.
36 Fenchurch St, London, EC3 01-626 6699
143.0 85.0 Brandts Cap (4) 83.0 88.0 2.86
146.0 91.0 Do Accum (4) 88.0 94.0e 2.43
142.0 77.0 Brandts Inc (4) 71.0 76.0 9.89

Bridge Trust Management Co Ltd.
Plantation Hse, Mincing Lane, EC3. 01-623 4951
109.0 82.0 Bridge Inc (2) 82.0 83.0 6.10
256.0 78.0 Do Inc (2) 110.0 118.0e 12.91
272.0 80.0 Do Cap (2) 78.0 80.0e 4.02
256.0 85.0 Do Cap Acc (2) 85.0 85.0e 3.97
110.0 48.0 O'seas Inc (3) 43.0 46.0 8.50
116.0 48.0 Do Accum (3) 45.0 48.0 8.50

The British Life
Reliance Hse, Mt Ephraim, Tun Wells. 0892 22271
109.0 82.0 Britannia Cap 82.0 83.0 2.86
72.7 17.7 Balanced (3) 16.9 17.8 8.44
38.4 18.1 Cap Accum (3) 17.2 18.1 10.64
48.6 23.0 Dividend (3) 21.9 23.0 10.64
41.3 23.6 Opp Income (3) 22.9 23.6 10.40

Brown Shipley Unit Fund Managers,
Founder's Court, Lothbury, EC2. 01-600 8320
178.5 168.1 Brn Ship Inc (7) 100.1 106.1 6.69
186.8 176.0 Brn Ship Acc (7) 104.7 111.1 6.69

Cambula Unit Trust Management Ltd.
6 Charles II St. London, SW1. 01-839 6123
33.5 16.9 Canlife Gen 15.3 16.2 7.57
34.0 17.1 Do Accum 16.6 17.5 7.57
25.8 17.7 Income Dist 16.0 17.8e 12.36
25.8 19.1 Do Accum 18.3 19.3 12.36

Carliol Unit Fund Managers Ltd.
Milburn Hse, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 0632-21163
77.3 39.5 Carliol Cap 38.5 39.5 6.66
80.6 37.4 Do Accum 35.4 37.4 7.06

Charities Official Investment.
77 London Wall, London, EC2. 01-588 1815
127.7 80.4 Inc* (20) 80.4 :: 6.60
207.6 82.0 Accum* (20) 80.4 :: 6.60

Charterhouse Japhet Unit Management Ltd.
3 Paternoster Row, London, EC4. 01-248 3999
29.4 13.2 Int (3) 12.8 13.2 4.23
29.8 13.8 Accum (3) 14.0 15.0 4.53
44.8 21.0 Inc (3) 19.8 21.0 11.73
25.4 18.4 Euro Fin (3) 18.0 19.2 1.89
25.0 13.8 Fund Inv (3) 12.8 13.6 7.74

Crescent Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. 031-226 4931
41.3 9.0 Growth Fnd 8.8 9.1 10.19
63.8 23.9 International 23.5 25.2 3.00
44.2 16.0 Reserve Fund 15.6 16.7 8.14
46.8 18.4 High Dist 17.5 18.5e 13.34

Discretionary Unit Fund Managers Ltd.
Finsbury Hse, 22 Bloomfield St, EC2. 01-588 4685
73.7 30.3 Inc 27.4 30.3e 12.49
136.0 59.4 Accum 56.0 59.4 12.49

Drayton Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
43/46 South St, Eastbourne. 0323 36711
95.8 Commodity 42.2 44.1 6.58
37.9 17.4 Growth 17.7 19.0e 4.12
74.4 13.0 Inv Trust 12.8 13.7 8.51
42.1 22.5 Drayton Inc 21.2 22.9 10.64
39.7 29.0 International 29.8 31.3e 3.97

Equitas Securities Ltd.
41 Bishopsgate, London, EC2. 01-774 5318
77.5 25.6 Progressive 24.7 26.3e 9.46

Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
Amersham Rd, High Wycombe, Bucks. 0494 22515
58.4 22.9 Equity & Law 22.1 23.5 8.43

Family Fund Managers Ltd.
72-80 Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks 0296 5941
74.3 48.9 Family Fnd 45.0 47.9 3.40

Framlington Unit Management Ltd.
Exchange Hse, 4 South Place, EC2. 01-628 4568
34.8 18.4 Nth American 19.8 21.6 4.07

Friends' Provident Unit Trust Management Ltd.
7 Leadenhall St, London, EC3. 01-626 4511
25.4 12.9 Friends Prov 12.5 13.3e 9.25
36.9 14.6 Do Accum 14.0 14.9 9.44

Funds in Court.
Public Trustee, Kingsway, WC2. 01-405 4300
32.2 44.0 Capital Inc* 44.0 46.0 7.13
88.5 41.0 Gross Income* 39.0 41.0 11.22
97.4 44.0 High Yield* 42.0 44.0 12.86

G and A Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex. 0277 227500
32.9 13.6 G & A 12.9 13.8e 9.67

G.T. Unit Managers Ltd.
16 St. Martin's-le-Grand, EC1. 01-600 9461 Ext 13
67.2 30.9 Gt Cap 30.0 30.5 4.30
51.5 38.8 Do Accum 39.0 39.0 4.30
99.4 72.2 Do Income 70.9 74.3 8.45
124.8 84.8 Do Up Inc Fnd 119.0 122.2e 5.00
170.6 94.6 Do Japan Gen 114.5 117.0 1.00

Guardian Royal Exchange Unit Man Ltd.
Royal Exchange, London, EC3. 01-621 1050
92.0 31.5 Guardhill 30.4 32.5 9.06

Headstone Unit Trust Management.
21-19 Greenville St, EC1N. 01-405 1144
59.3 33.0 Aust Trst 32.5 34.6 7.65
100.2 49.0 Cabot 46.0 48.0 4.30
39.0 21.0 Cap Accum 20.0 21.3 6.68
47.4 25.7 European 24.7 26.4 4.61
54.2 28.3 Far East Trst 26.7 28.5 6.97
39.6 21.5 Financial 20.7 22.0e 4.97
107.0 51.0 Henderson Gr* 49.0 51.0 4.76
48.3 23.0 High Income 22.5 24.1 6.76
29.4 14.7 Inc & Assets 13.9 14.9 10.65
107.2 52.2 Income Trust 50.7 53.2 6.10
31.0 12.0 Int Trst 11.4 12.2 6.98
50.0 29.4 Nth American 27.7 29.5 5.74
34.4 22.0 Oil & Res 20.5 21.6 7.45
105.2 59.8 Pers Portfolio 58.7 61.0 7.45

Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
PO Box 273, Croydon, CR9 6AL. 01-681 1031
46.1 Dollar 37.1 39.7 1.82
29.8 International 19.1 20.1 3.36
144.8 82.6 Brit Trst 74.1 77.9e 6.48
144.3 82.6 Brit Guernsey 74.1 81.8e 6.34
27.7 9.2 Cap 8.6 10.3 11.17
79.3 36.2 Fin Trst 34.7 37.2 5.72
39.2 8.9 Inc Trst 9.0 9.7e 14.48
30.0 10.5 High Yield 10.0 10.7e 15.03
47.1 18.3 Scos Trst 17.6 18.9 9.36

Ionian Unit Trust Management Ltd.
64 Coleman St, London, EC2. 01-638 5656
101.0 62.0 Foreign Fnd (22) 57.5 64.0 3.16
203.0 74.0 Growth Fnd (25) 69.0 74.0 5.18
109.0 60.0 Inc Fnd (28) 56.0 60.0e 14.35

Jascot Securities Ltd.
21 Young St, Edinburgh. 031-225 6761
37.8 12.7 Compound (1) 11.4 12.7 15.80
38.0 14.4 Do Accum (1) 13.1 14.4 15.80
39.0 13.0 Stock Withdraw (1) 11.1 13.0 17.37
24.0 16.7 Preference 16.6 19.9 17.37
24.0 10.9 Do Accum 8.8 9.8e
25.6 9.3 Cap (2) 8.3 9.1 7.47
26.2 11.1 Aust Comp Fnd 10.8 11.7 :
25.4 10.6 Stock Withdraw 9.2 10.2 7.86
37.5 14.8 Sector Ldrs (3) 14.2 15.0 7.86
24.3 8.3 Fin & Prop (3) 7.4 8.4 4.72
41.2 17.2 Int Growth (4) 16.7 17.7 4.70
28.0 10.5 Nth Sea (3) 9.3 10.2 10.37
45.0 23.7 Commodity (5) 21.8 22.7 10.37
49.1 28.0 Do Accum (5) 25.1 26.8 10.37
49.1 34.3 10% Inc W'draw (5) 31.8 34.3e 3.97

Key Fund Managers.
25 Milk St, EC2V 8JE. 01-606 7070
79.0 39.5 Cap Fund 37.4 39.4 7.15
97.0 48.5 Exempt Fnd (36) 45.6 48.5 12.43
89.2 53.1 Inc Fnd 49.8 53.1e 14.34
92.1 42.0 KFIF 40.8 43.1 6.87

Lazard Securities
67 George Street, Edinburgh. 031-226 3911
24.6 Gilt&Warrant 20.4 21.4 7.56
98.0 53.0 High Yield Fnd 70.0 68.5e 17.50
98.0 83.4 Do Accum 78.4 85.4e 17.50
98.0 68.4 Scottish Res 46.3 48.3 10.66

Legal & General Tyndall Fund.
18 Canynge Rd, Bristol. 0272 32241
80.0 23.6 Dist 22.4 23.6 9.56
82.6 26.2 Accum 24.8 26.2 9.56

Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers.
71 Lombard Street, London, EC3. 01-626 1500
53.6 18.5 1st Inc 18.0 19.1 10.78
60.9 22.6 Do Accum 22.0 23.3 10.78
56.2 20.7 2nd Inc 20.1 21.3e 8.14
60.6 23.9 Do Accum 23.1 24.5 8.14
76.5 32.5 3rd Inc 30.6 33.9 14.09
80.3 37.9 Do Accum 36.6 38.9 14.09

Morgan Grenfell Funds.
22 Gt Winchester St, London, EC2. 01-588 4545
73.6 70.2 Cap (3) 65.6 70.2 4.90
149.5 70.2 Can (3) 67.0 71.5 6.30
113.0 61.5 Exempt 26) 55.7 58.7 11.70
51.5 24.1 Inc (3) 23.1 24.7 6.34
10.11 7.11 Ins Agency (4) £ 6.63 7.11 4.10

M & G Securities.
Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ. 01-626 4588
199.7 80.3 M & G General 79.4 84.1 4.83
199.8 165.5 Do Accum 89.1 106.5 4.83
189.3 75.1 2nd Gen 72.7 73.4e 7.49
167.0 68.2 Do Accum 65.8 66.9 7.49
139.1 52.0 Mkt & Gen 49.5 52.3e 11.92
176.6 72.1 Do Accum 68.5 72.3 11.92
96.8 39.1 Dir Fnd 37.5 39.6e 14.48
156.1 63.7 Do Accum 60.9 64.2 14.48
141.8 61.0 Special Trst 57.8 61.0 8.50
182.3 69.2 Do Accum 64.7 68.3 8.50
117.0 46.9 Trustee Trust 43.8 46.2 10.66
283.9 147.4 Do Accum 148.8 155.5 5.50
69.6 26.9 FITS 25.5 26.9e 6.36
73.4 28.5 Do Accum 26.8 28.2 6.36
94.8 47.2 Compound 44.8 47.3 5.89
142.1 74.5 Recovery 70.4 74.2 18.43
60.0 24.9 Extra Yield 23.9 25.3e 16.97
77.0 29.9 Do Accum 28.5 30.1 16.97
117.0 68.9 Japan 70.3 74.7 :
76.9 36.0 Euro & Gen 36.6 39.1 2.01
49.0 19.5 American & Gen 19.0 20.2 4.89
54.1 34.2 Australasian 32.0 34.7 3.83
82.7 21.8 Far East Inc 20.5 27.5 2.77
82.7 30.1 Allied Capital 28.8 30.1 2.77
72.3 29.8 Brit Ind 2nd 28.1 30.0a 9.24
38.9 17.0 Growth & Inc 16.2 17.2 6.10
32.3 14.8 Elec & Ind Dev 14.0 14.8e 9.51
37.6 24.5 Met Min & Cmdty 23.6 25.2 7.76
58.3 29.3 High Income 28.0 29.8 9.00
35.6 17.3 Equity Income 16.3 17.4 10.86
24.6 14.7 International 15.7 16.7 2.75
35.0 25.0 High Yield Fnd 23.5 25.0 13.00
215.0 94.0 Hambro Fund 91.0 93.0 5.97
53.7 22.3 Do Income 21.8 23.2 11.79
96.5 44.3 Do Recovery 42.1 44.9 13.03
30.0 16.3 Do Smaller 15.7 16.4 11.10
25.9 12.3 Do Accum 11.8 12.6e 7.50
36.1 13.7 2nd Smaller 12.8 13.7 9.86
50.8 30.4 Scos of America 29.5 31.9e 3.13
101.0 59.5 Exempt Fnd 54.9 58.5 8.05

Anshacher Unit Management Co Ltd.
2 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7JH. 01-606 4010
42.4 18.6 Nth American 19.8 21.6 4.07

Barclays Unicorn Ltd.
252/6 Romford Road, London, E7. 01-534 5221
25.0 25.0 Unicorn Amer 24.1 25.4a 3.44
39.5 39.7 Aust Income 41.0 44.3 4.68
49.6 42.5 Do Accum 43.8 52.3 4.68
37.6 37.6 Do Capital 38.8 40.4 7.34
25.7 20.2 Exempt * 29.9 31.1e 11.48
35.3 11.1 Extra Income 10.6 11.2 14.49
66.8 25.3 Financial 23.8 25.2 8.54
68.6 26.6 Do Accum 500 25.0 26.7 11.41
34.6 12.0 General 11.6 12.4e 11.41
40.0 14.9 Growth Accum 14.3 15.3 9.44
75.0 30.0 Income 29.1 31.0 11.26
32.0 15.0 Recovery 14.1 15.1 11.06
125.0 46.4 Trustee 45.0 47.9 9.11
50.3 32.4 Worldwide 33.2 35.1 4.69

100.4	96.7	B'tst Inv Fnd	93.8 96.7 7.30
100.4	97.3	Do Accum	94.3 97.3 7.30

Brandts Ltd.
36 Fenchurch St, London, EC3 01-626 6699
143.0 85.0 Brandts Cap (4) 83.0 88.0 2.86
146.0 91.0 Do Accum (4) 88.0 94.0e 2.43
142.0 77.0 Brandts Inc (4) 71.0 76.0 9.89

Bridge Trust Management Co Ltd.
Plantation Hse, Mincing Lane, EC3. 01-623 4951
109.0 82.0 Bridge Inc (2) 82.0 83.0 6.10
256.0 78.0 Do Inc (2) 110.0 118.0e 12.91
272.0 80.0 Do Cap (2) 78.0 80.0e 4.02
256.0 85.0 Do Cap Acc (2) 85.0 85.0e 3.97
110.0 48.0 O'seas Inc (3) 43.0 46.0 8.50
116.0 48.0 Do Accum (3) 45.0 48.0 8.50

The British Life
Reliance Hse, Mt Ephraim, Tun Wells. 0892 22271
109.0 82.0 Britannia Cap 82.0 83.0 2.86
72.7 17.7 Balanced (3) 16.9 17.8 8.44
38.4 18.1 Cap Accum (3) 17.2 18.1 10.64
48.6 23.0 Dividend (3) 21.9 23.0 10.64
41.3 23.6 Opp Income (3) 22.9 23.6 10.40

Brown Shipley Unit Fund Managers,
Founder's Court, Lothbury, EC2. 01-600 8320
178.5 168.1 Brn Ship Inc (7) 100.1 106.1 6.69
186.8 176.0 Brn Ship Acc (7) 104.7 111.1 6.69

Cambula Unit Trust Management Ltd.
6 Charles II St. London, SW1. 01-839 6123
33.5 16.9 Canlife Gen 15.3 16.2 7.57
34.0 17.1 Do Accum 16.6 17.5 7.57
25.8 17.7 Income Dist 16.0 17.8e 12.36
25.8 19.1 Do

TUNISIA

a Special Rep

Among Arab countries Tunisia is probably the one with which Britons feel most familiar.

It appears politically stable under its veteran leader, Habib Bourguiba. Possession of a Jewish community has given it a reputation for tolerance. It lacks the brash assertiveness of countries which have not yet come to terms with their colonial past. While upholding Palestinian rights it has been on the sidelines of the Arab-Israel conflict; the hijacking of the British VC10 last month was its first experience of this type of terrorism.

Above all, it has opened its frontiers to tourism, taking 124,000 people from Britain alone last year.

Tunisia is one of the most politically experienced of Arab states. It was a protectorate under the French and therefore had more opportunity to take part in national affairs than its neighbours, Algeria and Libya, both of which were colonies. Achieving self-government in 1954 and complete independence in 1956 it heralded the end of European rule in Africa.

By Arab standards Tunisia has a high level of education. It devotes a large part of the budget to this sector and provides technical assistance to less developed states such as Libya and Algeria. The spread of schooling has contributed to the growth of a middle class which the Government sees as an essential prop to progress and stability.

All these factors make for a moderate, civilized country which, even if it lacks the excitement of Libya or Algeria, has succeeded in freeing itself from the shackles of underdevelopment and in creating a society to be measured by southern European, not African, yardsticks.

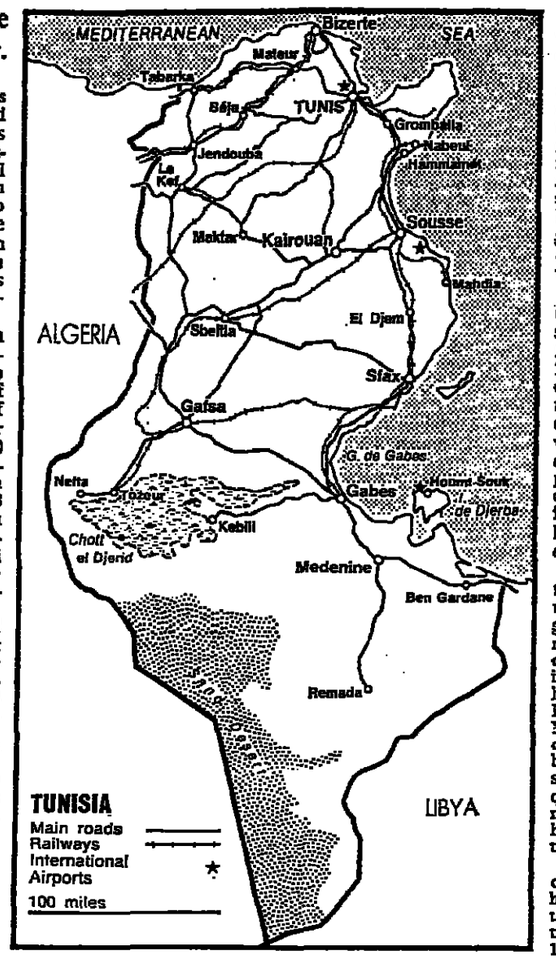
Yet the closer one looks at Tunisia the more one is aware of its problems and of the fragility of what has been accomplished on political, economic and cultural levels. To say that it was in a state of crisis would be to exaggerate. However, there are abundant elements in the present situation which could sour the achievements of the 18 years since independence.

Political life in Tunisia revolves around the President. Habib Bourguiba, who was 71 in August, is one of the outstanding figures of the Third World. A founder of the Néo-Destour Party 40 years ago, he was imprisoned by the French from 1934 to 1936 and from 1938 to 1943 and was kept in confinement or under surveillance from 1952 until 1955. He became Prime Minister after the first elections and President in 1957.

Since then he has shaped the country to an extent which is very rare among political leaders. Marxism has been rejected and close links forged with the United States. French troops have withdrawn from Bizerta and land owned by Frenchmen has been nationalized. Polygamy has been banned and fasting in Ramadan discouraged. In Middle East affairs Tunisia has steered a moderate course and has offered to mediate between Arabs and Israelis.

Mr Bourguiba is referred to as the "father of the nation" and the "supreme combatant". Last month he was elected President for life of the republic. In September he was acclaimed President for life of its sole political party, the Parti Socialiste Destourien (PSD), the name which the Néo-Destour now bears.

Dominance of the political stage by one man for so long inevitably raises difficult questions about the succession and the survival of his policies once he is gone. In Tunisia's case the problem is compounded by the conduct of affairs by the President since the late 1960s.



Mr Hedi Nouira, the Prime Minister and the man designated as Mr Bourguiba's successor, said recently that Tunisian policy eschewed adventure. Yet over the past six years there have been two notable adventures in which political heads have rolled.

The first was the transformation of agriculture into cooperatives in 1968 and 1969 by Ahmed Ben Salah, then the holder of several ministerial portfolios and the second most powerful man in Tunisia. His methods were undoubtedly ruthless but the aim was strongly endorsed by the President. A former colleague recalls him saying that everything could be collectivized except women.

In September 1969 the cooperative programme was suddenly abandoned. Mr Ben Salah was sentenced to 10 years in prison for treason and mismanagement of the economy and land expropriated by the state was returned to private ownership. Although the improvement of rural life will come only through the formation of cooperatives little has been done to encourage them since.

The second adventure was the proposal to form a union with Libya. Mr Bourguiba agreed to this at a meeting with Colonel Gaddafi on the island of Djerba in January but immediately had second thoughts. The Foreign Minister, Mr Mohamed Masmoudi, was dismissed and little has been heard of the proposal since. The President subsequently told the Egyptian newspaper *Al Ahram* that he had not been well at the time.

These abrupt and disconcerting changes of policy have been accompanied by a tightening of political control. At the PSD congress in 1971 party members elected on to the central committee a group of men who have since become severe critics of the regime.

They are Mr Bahi Ladgham, President Bourguiba's deputy for 15 years, who was dismissed as Prime Minister in the wake of the Ben Salah affair; Mr Ahmed Mestiri, former Minister of the Interior and of Defence, who resigned his portfolio in 1968 in protest at Ben Salah's action and was expelled from the party in 1972; and seven politicians who sent a letter to the press on the eve of the PSD congress in September complaining about the lack of democracy within the party.

The seven, who have since been expelled from the party, include Mr Beji Caid Essebsi, former Minister of the Interior, Mr Habib Boulares, former Minister of Culture and Information, Mr Hassib Ben Ammar, former Minister of Defence, Mr Sadok Ben Djemaa, former Minister of Social Affairs, and Mr Mohamed Ben Amara, former director of the PSD.

The critics' case is that Tunisia is politically mature enough to enjoy greater freedom of speech. They point out that the central committee chosen democratically in 1971 never met. They find little to recommend in a system where the President designates the members of the Political Bureau. Until 1971 there was complete liberty of expression within a unified party, they say. Then Mr Bourguiba killed the dialogue.

The critics argue that the stability of the state is precarious because it depends on the mood of a President who is subject to fits of mental depression, who blames other people for policies which he had once endorsed, and who is fiercely jealous of anyone who achieves political success. One of them told me that a democracy with anarchic tendencies, such as Italy, was better than power founded on personal whim.

These former party stalwarts do not wish for Mr Bourguiba's replacement and they think that a multi-party system is unsuited to the country. What they require is a liberalizing of political life.

The Government replies that the dissidents are expressing personal opinions which have no following in the country. It points out that it favours dialogue with the people but that to relax discipline would lead to anarchy and dictatorship.

The dissidents' case seems by and large to be justified. For a country with distinguished political and educational traditions Tunisia has a surprisingly authoritarian government. Its leaders speak of dialogue but their definition of it appears to exclude those whose differences with the regime go beyond mere technicalities. The newspapers make dreary reading; their main purpose seems to be to glorify members of the Government by reporting their movements in detail and their speeches in full. It is said that the press under the French protectorate was more independent and lively.

Maghreb policy stagnant

If the internal political situation has taken a turn for the worse, foreign policy has not fared much better in a sphere to which Tunisia attaches great importance. This is cooperation with the other Maghreb nations, Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Mauretania.

The main point to emerge from an interview granted to *The Times* by Mr Habib Chatti, the Foreign Minister, was the coolness of Tunisia's relations with its Arab neighbours. Those with Libya were qualified as "somewhat stagnant", lacking in dynamism and privileged status. Cooperation with countries to the west was not at all satisfactory. There had been no progress apart from cultural exchanges. A permanent committee of economic ministers had not met for at least four years, although it was supposed to do so annually.

In his offer to mediate between Arabs and Israelis, President Bourguiba has come up against the latter's refusal to accept the partition of Palestine along the lines of the United Nations resolution of 1947, which is his condition for meeting them. Mr Chatti said the chances of peace in the Middle East were "almost non-existent" because of Israel's intransigence. He thought the 1947 resolution had been virtually accepted by the Palestinians.

Against its wishes Tunisia found itself thrust into the limelight of Middle East politics last month with the hijacking of the British VC10. Accepting the four commandos, and their seven comrades released from jails in Cairo and The Hague, was an embarrassing outcome for the Government and it was no doubt relieved to get rid of them.

On the economic front Tunisia has been helped by increased rainfall over the past few years and a sharp rise in prices for its phosphates, olive oil and petroleum. However, these windfalls cannot hide grave weaknesses.

Mr Nouira, who as Prime Minister has concentrated on managing the economy, told the PSD congress in September that the 10 years up to 1971 has been marked by "general austerity and a relative stagnation in average standards of living". He said that 40 per cent of Tunisians have an income "below the poverty threshold".

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Simon Scott P

Prices attractive for tourist in country where unemployment is the main problem

Tourism remained Tunisia's largest source of foreign currency earnings in 1973, but the year was the worst in the industry's brief history. With 780,350 visitors in 1972, Government officials predicted more than 900,000 for 1973. In fact they received only 721,897. The hotel occupancy rate fell from 57.6 per cent to 43.7 per cent and revenue was nearly 10m dinars short of the target set by the fourth plan.

These failures were largely the result of a poor response from the West Germans and British who, with the French, accounted for 60 per cent of the market in 1972. The number of Germans fell by 37.9 per cent from 168,936 to 104,847; the number of British by 12.2 per cent from 141,320 to 124,140.

This year has not been much better. The first half was extremely disappointing, with visitors from Britain, for example, down from 74,000 during the same period in 1973 to 28,500.

The situation has improved somewhat since. The national tourist office has raised its forecast on the number of tourists this year to just below the level for 1973 and earnings are expected to rise from 72m dinars to about 90m dinars. Early predictions suggest that the country may receive about 800,000 tourists in 1975.

By a stroke of bitter irony, the recovery in the second half of this year was partly because of the war in Cyprus. Mr Ahmed Smaoui, a director of the tourist office, said that about 20,000 people had been diverted to Tunisia from Cyprus, Greece and Turkey because of the uncertain situation there.

However, Tunisia cannot count on wars in the Mediterranean to help it out of its difficulties. The experience of the past two years has been a sobering one for adolescent tourist industry. The expansion programme for the current plan (1973-76) has been cut from 35,000 to 25,000 beds and much thought has been given to the reasons for the recent poor performance.

The chief of these is the economic crisis in Europe, which has led people to cut back on luxuries such as holidays abroad. Tunisia is not alone in feeling its effects and can hardly be expected to deal with its causes.

However, there are specific faults in the national tourist industry where the Tunisians have plenty of scope for action. According to Mr Smaoui the chief weakness is the service in hotels. This is generally friendly, as any visitor to the country knows, but lacks experience. Tunisia has five hotel schools and one institute of hotel-keeping and tourism. It is building two more schools and will start work next year on a further two, with training hotels attached. Mr Smaoui said he thought that the quality of service would improve in two to three years' time.

He was worried also about the lack of control over activities connected with tourism. He cited the case of an Englishman who bought a carpet in Kairouan and asked for it to be sent on to him. When it arrived in London he found that it was not the same carpet. The tourist may have been satisfied with his hotel, the weather and the beach, but an incident of this kind leaves a sour taste and dissuades him from returning to Tunisia.

The costs rise by 40 per cent

Another weakness of the industry is the lack of cooperation between hotel-keepers, which allows foreign tour operators to drive a hard bargain with individual hotels. Prices are attractively low for the tourist, but in many cases fail to cover the hotelkeepers' costs. On Djerba, basic prices have not risen for the past four seasons, a period in which costs had risen by 40 per cent.

When a Briton can have a winter week in Tunisia for £38 or a German two weeks for just over £100, air fares included, the sum received by the hoteliers is hardly enough to cover the cost of food, let alone pay their staff a decent wage. A Tunisian tourist official said hoteliers tried to make up on extras such as hairdressing and *mechoui* (roast lamb) parties.

In a country where lack of work is the main problem, the Government has welcomed tourism for the jobs it provides. However, the creation of permanent employment for nearly 30,000 people has been achieved at a cost—to the hotel-keeper and also to the tourists themselves. Djerba, for example, has 8,000 hotel beds, but an alarming dearth of doctors for its large seasonal population. It is time that prices were raised to a realistic level and a more comprehensive service provided for the visitor.

In negotiating with European tour operators the strength of the hoteliers' case depends to some extent on the number of beds he has at his disposal. This can come through cooperation among small hotels or by the creation of larger units.

An example of the latter is the Dar Jerba hotel on the north coast of Djerba, which opened in 1972 and was completed last year. It is divided into four hotels of different standards under one management and has 2,500 beds. Dar Jerba illustrates a tendency of recent years for the country to move away from small hotels with subsequent additions, towards large units catering for mass tourism. In Monastir an hotel with 3,500 beds is under construction and there are plans to build a new resort of 13,000 beds, on the lines of the French tourist towns, to the north of Sousse.

For me the outstanding facets of Tunisian tourism are the siting and design of the hotels. In the Gulf of Hammamet, for example, the hotels lie back from the beach amidst olive and citrus groves. Some are extensions to what were formerly private villas. They use features of local architecture and, with one exception, do not intrude on the natural beauty of the coast.

The same is true in Djerba. Coming from the airport the first view of Dar Jerba is of gleaming white domes and arcades set among palm trees on the far side of a lagoon. Closer inspection of this complex, which was designed by the Danish architect Claus Bremer, reveals a main square whose scale is perhaps too large for comfort and where the arcading almost excessive. However, a sense of intimacy is restored by the rooms, each of which has a separate entrance and a tiny garden. Many are in the form of small domed houses, inspired by the native architecture.

The French architect Gautier Delaye likewise draws on the local style at the Djerba Menzel, but in a different form. Ten *menzels*, a type of dwelling found in Tunisia, are dotted around the beach. Each has an entrance hall and 14 split-level rooms with roof balconies, grouped around a courtyard garden. A central building contains the reception hall, restaurants, cafés and bars. There is also a swimming pool.

Some hotels are less successful architecturally. Mr Smaoui was unhappy about the large, tall block of the Rym, now under construction in Monastir, and thought that the Phénicia in Hammamet had one storey too many. One could also add to the list of offenders the Amilcar at Carthage, which has an ugly central block, and the Africa in Tunis, which rises 20 storeys above a boulevard where the buildings erally between six a storeys high.

As the size of h creases so does th hood of spoiling the environment. Mor have to be uprooted the site and the tends to jar with roundings. The Gov is aware of this dan has recently in strict planning s Mr Smaoui outlin as 100 beds per he acres), eight to 32 of beach per bathe maximum height ings corresponding of the tallest tree site.

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TUNISIA
There's another side to the Mediterranean

Good fortune and a sharp swing to the right bring rich rewards

by Godfrey Morrison
editor, *Africa Confidential*

With steadily mounting foreign exchange reserves and ambitious but realistic plans for industrial expansion and diversification, the outlook for the Tunisian economy looks excellent. The confidence with which both private businessmen and government planners in Tunis can look to the future is a recent phenomenon.

Until the end of the 1960s the economic outlook for Tunisia was unhealthy. A high birth-rate and huge expenditure on education was producing a new generation of discontented people for whom the employment prospects seemed bleak. Dirigiste socialist policies had brought havoc to agriculture and much of industry and were scaring off foreign investment from a country whose natural resources of oil and phosphates were puny when compared to her immediate neighbours Algeria and Libya.

The past four years, however, have seen a dramatic transformation of the economic scene. Late in 1969 President Bourguiba dismissed Mr Ahmed Ben Salah, who was then the extremely powerful Finance, Planning and Education Minister, and Tunisia was the Government's main socialist enthusiast, and the country took a sharp turn to the right. Since that time under the guidance of Mr Hedi Nouira, the Prime Minister, a moderate and veteran Neo-Destour leader, the planned economy has returned to favour.

The other key figure in current economic policy has been the much younger Mr Mohamed Sayah, who at 41 was Economics Minister until a cabinet reshuffle in September when he moved to the planning ministry. A former professor of the faculty of law, political science and economics at Tunis University, and a director of the World Bank at the age of 31, he has a high reputation in banking and academic circles.

The move to the right certainly aided, but does not entirely explain, the recovery in the economy in the past few years. Good fortune has also played its part.

Tunisia's good fortune has included abundant rainfall which has produced good harvests, some oil strikes, and the recent sharp rises in the world price of oil, phosphates and olive oil, an important agricultural export.

At one time it looked as if fate had been extraordinarily unkind to Tunisia. On either side of the country, in Algeria and Libya, oil and natural gas poured from the ground in abundance. All the Tunisians had was the El Borma field, never a really big producer and now already past its peak production years.

However, a much more recent discovery, the offshore Ashtart field, near the Kerkenna islands, is proving much more productive than was originally expected. Oil production has already passed 40,000 barrels a day and could well reach double that figure in a year's time. Meanwhile two wells have been drilled in the new Isis field, which is also offshore about 100 miles east of Sfax, and the indications are promising.

Phosphates have also played their part in the economic turn-about following the sharp rise in world prices which increased from $13 to $52 in just a year. At one time production from the relatively low-grade rock was maintained by the Government mainly for political and social reasons—to preserve the jobs of about 12,000 people—but at the new prices the whole industry has become a major component of the country's export earnings.

With the world food crisis and chronic fertilizer shortage the outlook must be good. Only last month a new phosphates factory in the Gafsa Governorate passed from the trial stage to active production, which should eventually add another 1,200 tonnes of phosphates a year. This will be welcome since, though export earnings this year from phosphates are well up, this is entirely due to the rise in prices, since production figures for the first seven months of 1974 are lower than in the same period last year.

The agricultural outlook remains promising. The rains have been good this autumn, which should benefit most crops, though there are reports that the date harvest has been badly affected by them. Olive oil production is expected to be about 80,000 tonnes this year which, though much lower than last year's 130,000 tonnes, is still regarded as satisfactory since this crop varies in a cyclical manner, quite independent of weather or good husbandry.



The mosque of Sidi Bou Makhlouf at El Kef, western Tunisia.

Tunisia has suffered continual foreign trade deficits, but in the past few years has enjoyed consistent balance of payments surpluses. The reason has been the foreign exchange inflow from tourism and the remittances from the large number of Tunisians working in Europe, mainly in France and West Germany. Foreign aid from the international agencies and a large number of bilateral aid donors, as well as a growing flow from foreign private investment, have added to the surplus.

The latest figures available, covering the first seven months of this year, suggest that an end to the constant trade deficits is now a distinct possibility. Exports at 197m dinars represented about 80 per cent cover of the country's imports during the same period. During recent years, the country's annual exports have been worth only from 50 per cent to 65 per cent of total imports. The encouraging results this year have been achieved despite a sharp rise in the value of imports and are due to the rise in earnings from olive oil, phosphates, superphosphates, phosphoric acid and crude oil.

Earnings from tourism should also be fairly good this year. The good results in this sector are largely due to the turmoil in Cyprus which caused a diversion of many tourists to Tunisia at the last moment. Otherwise the results would probably have been discouraging. In the mid-1960s this was the only economic success story, but of late tourists have shown an unwillingness to return for a second time to Tunisia. However, the fact that government officials and the press now talk openly of the tourism crisis, rather than trying to sweep the industry's problems under the carpet, suggests that in time the problem will be solved. In the long term the prospects must be excellent.

Because of the high birth-rate and the large pool of unemployed, the creation of new jobs remains a prime aim of economic policy. A recent report by the Central Bank estimates that about 30,000 new jobs were created in 1973 but notes that 19,000 Tunisians still had to be placed overseas, in France, West Germany and Libya. The problem of unemployment was a major factor behind the law of April, 1972, which offered foreign firms special tax privileges and other incentives to set up in Tunisia and produce for export.

This scheme seems to have been a considerable success already, even though it is still in its infancy. Mr Tijani Chelli, head of the Investment Promotion Agency, has said that a main aim of the 1972 law was to enable Tunisia "to import work rather than exporting our labour". Other advantages of setting up these privileged export-oriented industries include the import of technical skills, another means of effecting the transfer of technology.

The current four-year plan (1973-76) views the manufacturing industry as the main source of new jobs, even though the acceleration of industrialization is a recent phenomenon. A recent survey reported that investment in the manufacturing industry approved in 1973 totalled D134m, against D50m in 1972 and only D25m in 1971.

Provided world economic conditions do not get out of hand, there seems to be a good chance that Tunisia will build up a profitable industrial sector quickly. The reasons for this are: the encouragement now given to foreign investors and the favourable status Tunisia will enjoy in its relations with the European Economic Community.

Another favourable factor is the large investment the country has made in education. In the years since independence, about one third of recurrent expenditure has been spent on education. This has produced a more advanced labour force and potential managers and technicians in greater numbers than those possessed by most African and Arab countries.

Despite the inevitable hard feelings after the on-off union with Libya, cooperation, particularly on a practical economic level, is quietly developing between Tunis and Tripoli. There are also growing trade links with Algeria. However, despite these developments and attempts to build up the economic and political solidarity of the Maghreb region, it is difficult to think of Tunisia's economic future other than in terms of its relations with Western Europe. France, Italy and West Germany remain the main trading partners.

Of vital importance for the future will be an agreement, which should come into force some time next year, between Tunisia and the EEC. A limited association agreement between Tunisia and Morocco has been in operation since 1969, but was confined to restricted trade concessions. Both the Tunisians and the Moroccans found these arrangements unsatisfactory and of little value.

As a result the two countries, together with Algeria, pressed to be granted a more comprehensive agreement which would not be confined to trade preferences and quotas, but would also include an aid package. This will come to fruition and in addition there will be measures to boost scientific and technical cooperation and encourage private investment in the Maghreb. Most significant of all, there will be measures to encourage industrial development in the three Maghreb countries so that they can take advantage of their privileged access rights to the EEC. Tunisia, the most culturally outward-looking of the Arab states, should be ideologically and educationally well-placed to take advantage of the situation.

hange of emphasis in education to provide technical training

he Tunisian Govern- education is the key velopment, the means ich people find work, al income rises and national revenue is uted more evenly. It as no surprise, there- to find that much y and money have spent in this field independence. A n teacher in Tunis bed the country as ducative state which through education".

1960s witnessed what erred to as an *explo- colaire*. According to ment statistics, 46.3 nt of children between es of six and 14 were to school in 1961-62, ore than 70 per cent 2-73. At the beginning of that period the number of primary pupils was 465,577. This year it is around 892,000.

The corresponding figures for secondary schools are 54,751 and 176,255. For higher education they are 2,309 and 14,000. Mr Driss Guiga, the Minister of Education, said that there was now no community of more than 500 people in Tunisia which did not have a school.

The rapid spread of education has been impressive but the Government is dissatisfied with the quality of what has been achieved. Mr Hedi Nouira, the Prime Minister, told the ruling party's congress in September that the system was somewhat obsolete and must be rethought.

What he has in mind is the training of young Tunisians to do the work necessary for the country's development. "We have a duty to train useful citizens", he said. "We must therefore train market gardeners, masons, hairdressers, electricians. This also means that we are not required to make everybody chemists, lawyers, men of letters or sociologists."

Mr Nouira was echoing the line taken by the President on the same occasion. President Bourguiba said that education was an end in itself but that this aspect had to be reconciled with its obligations as a means of development.

"If it were otherwise", he added, "education would be for individuals no more than an intellectual luxury, and for society a nonsense, even a catastrophe. For it would mould brains which could not be inserted into production circuits.

"That would cause a rupture between the 'educated' and society. The result would be discontent and resentment leading to explosions of various kinds which undermine society."

The consequences of this predominantly utilitarian view of education can be seen in the fourth national plan (1973-76), which is remarkable more for the changes of emphasis within the system than for quantitative increases.

Primary education is considered to be a universal right and the number of pupils is expected to rise by over 100,000 during the plan. The main problem at this level is the failure rate; more children than not fail to go on to secondary schools and between 50,000 and 60,000 leave school each year without completing the six-year course.

These young Tunisians emerge from the classroom with a basic general education but no technical qualifications. So they find difficulty in getting a job. To prevent such a waste of manpower the Government has introduced manual work into the timetable for the last two years of primary schooling. It hopes thereby to overcome a widespread aversion to working with the hands and to provide the basis for subsequent technical training.

At Sidi Thabet, to the north-west of Tunis, the children do two hours of horticulture a week. During my visit they were preparing ground for potatoes, planting beetroot and picking mandarin oranges. Each class has its own plot of land. The pupils have sold peppers in the village market and oranges to the staff and the school kitchen.

The head mistress said that parents had been reluctant at first about the scheme but were now keen on it. Not surprisingly, the children seemed quite happy to be out in the sunshine rather than sitting in a classroom.

When I went to La Goulette, across the lake from Tunis, the children were making shapes in iron wire. Last year they all did the same thing. This year they can choose, and the wall is hung with metal animals and flowers. They also work in wood, sheet iron and plaster and receive elementary instruction in electricity.

Mr Guiga said that 24,000 primary pupils were doing manual work this year and that by 1980 all primary schoolchildren would be involved in it. A government official working for the scheme told me that he would like to see some form of manual work introduced from the first year, so that in the last three years the child would be producing things good enough to sell commercially.

The Government faces two major difficulties in this interesting experiment. The first is the training of teachers. To start with, manual work was directed entirely by vocational training staff. Now the classroom teacher is taking over, a change welcomed by the children. I was told that a teacher would require a three-month course to acquire the necessary skills, but a master I spoke to in Sidi Thabet had done only two weeks' training.

The other difficulty is the construction of premises. At La Goulette the children work in a hall used normally for training adults. It is expected that the national employment office will wish to use it full-time as the Government's plan to create small and medium-size industries gets under way. Mr Noureddine Kefari, director general of the office, said that primary schools should build their own workshops by 1976.

Training facilities for children who fail to get into secondary schools are to be increased. Mr Guiga said that from next year six experimental centres would be opened for this purpose with the help of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Bank.

Reconversion course started

In the secondary system as a whole the number of pupils receiving general education during the first three-year cycle is expected to drop slightly during the present plan, whereas the number of those receiving vocational training will rise from 18,420 to 41,287.

In the second cycle the humanities will lose about 3,000 pupils (19,725 to 16,814). Science and maths (22,702 to 31,276) and technical subjects (9,668 to 17,196) will record large gains.

A one-year "reconversion" course has been started at a *lycée* in Sousse. It enables pupils who have already acquired their *baccalauréat* in the humanities to get it in science and maths as well.

Mr Guiga said they would be equipped then to do technical and engineering courses, which lack applicants. The ministry is also about to introduce technical training for teachers with a literary *baccalauréat* who cannot find jobs.

The same emphasis is evident in higher education. During the fourth plan the number of students in the Faculty of Letters of Tunis University and of those doing the humanities as trainee teachers in the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) will rise from 3,205 to 4,978 and in the Faculty of Law and Economics from 2,016 to 2,181.

In the Faculty of Science and the scientific section of the ENS the figure will more than triple to 7,646. In the Faculty of Medicine it will more than double to 2,254. The National Engineers' School of Tunis, where only 21 per cent of the students are Tunisian, will have 2,118 students in 1976-77 compared to 343 four years earlier.

As well as producing more scientists and technicians, the Government wants to create institutes of higher education throughout the country. Faculties of medicine have opened at Sousse and Sfax on the east coast, and a veterinary school will be set up at Mejaz el Bab in the Medjerda valley.

Tunisia is no exception to the rule that students pose problems for the political establishment. Mr Nouira said recently that the framework of the Government's contacts with them required further elaboration. Mr Mohamed Sayah, director of the Parti Socialiste Destourien, told me that dialogue between the two was very difficult.

In 1973 the party encouraged the students to elect their own delegates to take part in the management of the university. According to Mr Sayah, the elections were sabotaged by anarchist groups.

This year the Government has taken a tougher line. In April police were sent in to prevent the closing of the university during a students' strike and in the summer 202 people, among them students, stood trial for plotting against the state. The situation has become quieter since then and elections in the university faculties and other institutes of higher learning began last month.

Education in Tunisia is moving farther and farther away from the model bequeathed by France towards something better adapted to the needs of a poor, independent nation. However, important elements of French practice remain, probably to the detriment of the system as a whole.

One of these is a highly centralized, bureaucratic administration which lays down exactly what the teacher does in the classroom. A distinguished foreign lecturer in Tunis said that this tended to stifle individual initiative and responsibility.

Another is the use of French in the classroom, which means that some children leave primary school semi-literate in both French and their native tongue, Arabic.

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DELIGHTFUL MODERN HOUSE of unusual internal plan. Hall, 4 reception rooms, well fitted kitchen, family room with small kitchen and bathroom off, 5 bedrooms, 2 further bathrooms (1 en suite), Oil-fired C.H. Garages for 4 cars. Workshop. Changing room. Heated swimming pool. Garden with small orchard, about 2 5 Acres. FREEHOLD. Offers invited for a quick sale. Harrods Estate Offices as above. Ext. 2807, and Osenton Linden, Church Street, Leatherhead. Tel. 76633.

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BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.
Quiet private road, easy reach of town centre and station. (Liv. St. 35 40 mins.)
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In a beautiful rural setting.
EXCELLENT PERIOD HOUSE, modernised and well maintained. Porch, entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, study, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Oil-fired C.H. Garaging. About 1 Acre. FREEHOLD. Offers over £27,500. Harrods Estate Offices, as above, ext. 2807.

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Further details and application forms are available from the Academic Secretary, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX.

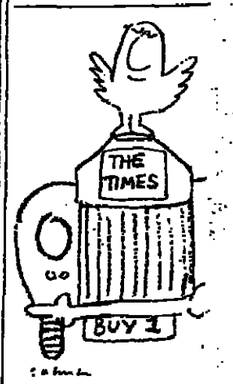
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SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Balliol College, Oxford
JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN MATHEMATICS
The college proposes to elect a Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics for a period of three years from 1 October 1975. The Fellowship is open to men and women in any branch of pure or applied mathematics.
The stipend for a Junior Research Fellow is currently £1,900 per annum with allowances (in the case of a married Fellow a housing allowance) and superannuation.
Applications should reach the College Secretary, from whom further details may be obtained, not later than 1 February 1975.

CLARE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE
invites applications for
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
The Fellowship is restricted to women, who must be graduates of a British university and not over the age of 30 on 1 October, 1975. Candidates will be considered who have specialised in any of the following subjects: archaeology, biology, economics, genetics, geography, law. The closing date for applications is 12 February 1975. For further particulars apply to the Master.

FOREST SCHOOL
Near Snaresbrook. E17
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Five scholarships covering tuition fees for seven years offered. Boarding scholarships of £300 p.a. and £100 may be added or are awarded separately. Examinations will be held at the School on January 1st for boys under 13 (day or boarding) or under 14 (boarding only) on 1st September, 1975. Details from the Headmaster.



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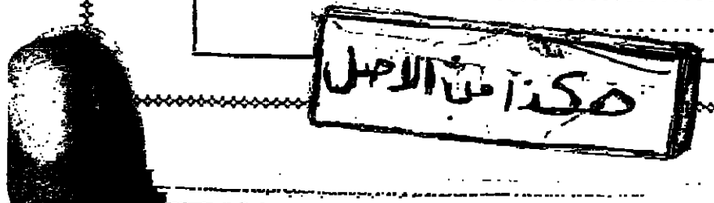
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

Notice is hereby given by the Church Commissioners that they have PREPARED a DRAFT REDUNDANCY SCHEME providing for the transfer of the redundant church of St. Leonard, Berwick Saint Leonard, and the chapel of ease in the parish of Fonthill Bishop with Berwick St. Leonard in the diocese of Salisbury, together with the land and buildings thereto, to the Redundant Churches Fund for care and maintenance.

A copy of the draft scheme may be inspected by appointment with the Reverend J. Ellis at Fonthill Gifford Rectory, Salisbury, Wilts.

A copy may also be obtained or inspected during normal office hours on application to the Church Commissioners' office.

Any representations with respect to the draft scheme should be made in writing to the Church Commissioners and should reach their offices not later than 15 Jan., 1975.

K. S. RYLE, Secretary.

Millbank, London, S.W.1.
2 December 1974.

CHARITY COMMISSION

In the Matter of Miss Agnes Ellen Davey for Scholarships for Agricultural Education, and a subsidiary endowment held in connection with Shrewsbury School in the County of Salop.

Application for the regulation of the above-mentioned charities.

Reference No. 236436-60152.

The Charity Commissioners propose to ESTABLISH a SCHEME for the above and other purposes. Objections and suggestions may be sent to the Commissioners within one month from today.

Copies of the proposed Scheme may be supplied on written request to the Charity Commission, 14 Ryder Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting reference above) and may be seen at that address or at Bridge Hill, Shrewsbury, Salop.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

Notice is hereby given by the Church Commissioners that they have PREPARED a DRAFT PASTORAL SCHEME to implement proposals sent to them by the Bishop of Ripon for uniting the benefices of Hunsingore with Cowthorpe; Kirk Hammerton; and Nun Monkton; for uniting the parishes of Hunsingore and Cowthorpe; for making a declaration of redundancy in respect of the church of St. Michael, parish church of the parish of Cowthorpe.

A copy of the draft scheme may be inspected at the parish churches of the parishes of Nun Monkton; Hunsingore; Cowthorpe; Kirk Hammerton.

A copy may also be obtained or inspected during normal office hours on application to the Church Commissioners' office.

Any representations with respect to the draft scheme should be made in writing to the Church Commissioners and should reach their offices not later than 15 Jan., 1975.

K. S. RYLE, Secretary.

Date: 11 Dec., 1974.
1 Millbank, London SW1P 3JZ.

GENERAL CHARITY— WILKINSON'S CHARITY

SCHEME for the amendment of a previous SCHEME and ORDER certifying approval of the provisional appointment of Lawrence Austin Biddle Esq., to be a Trustee of the Charity.

Ref. 240930-A2-A.

The Charity Commissioners have made an Order ESTABLISHING a SCHEME for this and other purposes. Copies can be obtained by written request to the Charity Commission, 14 Ryder Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting ref. No. 240930-A2-A) and may also be seen at that address.

British Railways Board

WITHDRAWAL OF SHIPPING SERVICES (Deferment)

In accordance with Section 54(1) of the Transport Act 1962 the Shipping and International Services Division of the British Railways Board duly gave notice that on and from 30.0.74 it proposed to discontinue the regular passenger/vehicle shipping services operating between Heysham and Belfast for the conveyance of :

Passengers
Accompanied Motor and Other Vehicles
Goods

Alternative facilities for the conveyance of this traffic are available on the Stranraer-Larne route (the other regular shipping services provided by the Board between Heysham-Belfast for the conveyance of Goods and Goods Vehicles only, not being affected by this proposal).

At the request of the Central Transport Consultative Committee the British Railways Board deferred the closure until 1 February 1975.

Following a public hearing and pending considerations by the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the British Railways Board announce that the proposed closure date has now been postponed until 6 April 1975 at the earliest.

British Railways Board
222 Marylebone Road
London NW1 6JJ
18 December 1974.



DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

SUPERIOR COUPLE

for country house, 30 miles Dublin. Impeccable references required. Separate accommodation and good salary. Must be fully experienced.

UNIVERSAL AUNTS LTD., 36 WALPOLE STREET, LONDON, S.W.3.

TEL.: 01-730 9834.

BRITISH DIPLOMATIC FAMILY leaving for West Africa (Cameroons) early January, seek enterprising girl, fond of children, to help look after their 2 boys (aged 3 and 1). There for min. 1 year. Write giving full personal details and telephone no. to Gordon, 68 Hornsey Lane, London, N.6.

NEWBURY AREA. — Competent person to supervise and care for 3 school age children (1 boarding). Comfortable accommodation. Driver preferred. Good refs. essential. No dependents. 048 839 422.

LADY TO RUN comfortable home in Chislehurst, Kent, for school children, other help kept. Good salary and conditions for right applicant. Car available. Resident or non-resident. 01-467 1312 (eves.).

ONE/TWO GIRLS to help with cooking and housework over Christmas holiday period on pleasant Sussex farm. Live as family. Salary to be arranged.—Mrs. Trafford, Rudgwick (0403721) 2166.

ACTRESS, HUSBAND, and 2 young children want friendly living-in help; own room, occasionally full time, when wife in luck and working. Stan 01735 Islington.—Tel.: 01-607 3816.

A BELGRAVIA BUREAU just pays most. Cook-h'keepers, dailies, Au pairs, m'couples. Central London only.—584 4343.

AU PAIR.—English speaking girl, own room.—Tel.: 584 3060.

AU PAIR BUREAU PICCADILLY offers best jobs London or abroad. Call 87 Regent St., W.1 930 4757

CREATIVE COOK required by prestigious restaurant, Somerset.—See General Secs./Gen. Appts.

ENGLISH WIDOWER resident Madrid seeks good-tempered English speaking lady to live in and run household, caring for 3 school-age children in his absence on business. Would suit lady 25/50 used to family atmosphere. Driving licence. Knowledge of Spanish preferred but essential. Reply Box 0079 M, The Times.

NANNY required, own room. Chelsea. 2 yr. girl.—Tel. 352 9657.

RESIDENT NANNY to care for one child aged 2½ yrs. Generous salary + comfortable quarters in Highgate.—01-272 5058.

TORONTO start Jan.—Mum's Help, £1/40 p.m. super job, fare and visa arranged. Phone Alice Rodger, 011 887 7000, Extension 1.

VENICE. Youngish Nanny/Mother's help for 2 small girls, 1 year.—Please telephone 01-789 9878.

WORKING-HOUSEKEEPER. Family 2. Good salary; quarters. —British Agency (9218), London Rd., Horsham. Tel. 5571.

REQUIRED

COOK/HOUSEKEEPER to gentleman, requires post. Cordon Bleu, non-driver. Active 61, super refs. Full charge. At present in Bucks. Box 2998 D, The Times.

MALE COOK, 40, available mid-Dec. until early Jan. Will travel. 01-778 5715.

2 DEMI-PAIRS available London area January.—Tel. Matilda Cox, Fortune Au Pair Agency. 584 4543.

MOTOR CARS

EUROCARS (LONDON) LTD. First registered Nov. 1973. Citroën SM E.F.I., finished in Or de Sienne trim with carmel jersey interior. Fitted air conditioning, tinted glass all round. Recorded mileage 3,000. Price £6,650. Eurocars (London) Ltd. Tel. 262 2728/9. We also have a wide variety of models to choose from.

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STAG, NOV. 1973. 11,500 miles, automatic, magenta, hard and soft top, radio, Sundym windscreen, power steering and electric windows, 1 owner. As new. 606 6622, Mr Scott.

MGB GT V8. 'WAA 8N' 1974 (Sept.), maroon. 3,000 miles only, radio, lady owner; selling due to ill health. £2,250, saving £600 on new price.—Tel. Bralsh-field (0794) 68345.

N REGISTERED MERCEDES 280E finished in burgundy with auto., p.a.s., tinted glass, fitted radio, genuine reason for sale. Telephone evenings: Gloucester (0452) 25216.

FIAT ECONOMY. 126, 127, 128. Choice of colours. Special terms. Immediate delivery.—Normans, 01-622 0042.

JAGUAR V12 2+2. Nov., 1973, dark blue, manual. Docile, beautiful, comfortable. 25,000 miles. £1,900.—0962 3746.

SCIMITAR GTE 1972. o/drive, alloy wheels, new HR tyres, one owner, 50,000 miles. £1,675 o.n.o.—Alton 63169.

PORSCHE Targa T luxury, 'M' registered, red, 1 owner, 20,000 miles, stereo, perfect, £5,950.—Telephone Bruton 2208.

SILVER DINO 246 G.T. 1972, red leather interior, radio/8 track tape, 28,000 miles: £2,700. 255 4402.

RENAULT 4. 1969, 41,000 mls., tax, M.o.T. £498.—0306 730011.

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CITROEN. Special Offers on all models. Also personal export arranged. Continental Car Centre. 01-959 8821/2/3.

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DAIMLER XJ6S Stag R/Rover. Best car prices. 01-794 8755, C7A.

MERCEDES BENZ 220, 1969, up to 30 mpg, 35,000 miles. Automatic, value £2,250, swop for Rolls-Royce. Phone 01-670 4283.

ROVER 3500, AUTO, 1972, p.a.s., radio, tow bar, white, black leather interior. 45,000m. £1,400 o.n.o. Great Missenden (02406) 4781.

NEW MINI CLUBMAN automatics, instant delivery. A.M.C. Ltd. 01-994 6441.

NEW RANGE ROVER. List price. C.L.M. 01-959 2917.

MOTOR CARS

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Left hand drive, manual 4.2 overdrive, pale blue, many desirable extras and tinted windows. Immaculate condition. Careful owner for less than 6 months. Cost over £4,500 but offered at a bargain £3,300 o.n.o.n., cash discount. Finance available if required.

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BLACK MGB GT, late '73, 8,000m., every extra incl. Webasto and pinstriping; £3,600, no offers. —01-228 0089 (eves.).

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ROLLS-ROYCE CORNICHE CONVERTIBLE

1974 registered

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£5,750.

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Offers over £9,000.

Tel. 01-670 4282.

NOVEMBER '74. Silver Shadow Saloon, current specification, normal mileage. £13,850.—P. J. Evans Ltd., Wolverhampton. Telephone Sedgley 3735.

1965 ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Cloud 3. Excellent condition, £3,750. To view please tel. Bury St. Edmunds (02684) 2151, day or 5325 evenings.

£2,500 CASH plus 1972/3 Rolls Shadow, low mileage, offered for 1 N registration Shadow. Tel.: Mr. Morris, Coventry 84031, S.P. & Sons.

1926 BENTLEY. 3-litre vintage four door open tourer. Apply Box 1966 D, The Times.

1936 4½ Bentley Sports Saloon (sunshine roof) by Cocksedot. Extensive overhaul of body and chassis in 19 yrs. with present owner who must regretfully sell. Chartreuse in concours condition. Offers invited over £5,000.—Hitchin (0462) 33950.

ROLLS-ROYCE, 1970 model, fridge, Sundym, stereo/cassette, etc.; silver grey, dark blue trim; £5,650.—Phone 01-278 6546 (day); 01-500 7024 (eves./weekends).

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SILVER SHADOW
1969

51,000 miles. Blue, grey interior, sun dym, refrigeration, etc. Immaculate, £800 recently spent.

£5,150 o.n.o.

New car arrived.

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Offers around £11,000

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Completely modernised under the supervision of a top New York architect. 7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, superb conservatory, sauna, etc. Over £110,000 spent on restoration, to let unfurnished. £1,000 per month.

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Elegant, fully furnished town house of 3 beds, 2 recepts., kit. and 2 baths, patio, c.h., rental, £125 p.w.

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15 Dover St., W.1.
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Modern detached well furnished house on 2 floors only. Close American school. 3 beds., 2 recepts., 2 bath., luxury kitchen, double garage.

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AVAILABLE NOW. Quality Flats/Houses to let.—LAL, 937 7884.

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MARSH & PARSONS (937 6091) offer well-furnished flats/houses with prompt and efficient service.

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LUXURY FLAT to let Camberwell, S.E.5. Comprising 2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and w.c. Furnished with modern furniture, c.h., etc. Suit 3-4 girls sharing. Rent £47 p.w. with refundable deposit of £100. Ring 01-733 8539 ext. 1.

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W.4.—Spacious, attractive, furnished flat, dble. bed., lounge, k. & b., c.h., £22 p.w.—Donaldsons, 370 4500.

W.8.—Delightful, fully equipped flat, d. bed., 2 recepts., k. & b., c.h. £35 p.w.—Donaldsons, 370 4500.

PARK LANE. Several well furn. flats in prestige block avail. now and within the next few weeks for a min. period of 3 maths. 1 d., 1 s., 1 recep., k. & b. from £49.35 p.w. 1 beds., 1 recep., k. & b. £60.85 p.w.—Hampton & Sons, 01-493 8222.

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CHELSEA Xmas excellence and elegance. Superb service flat, 2 rooms, k. and b. Very select. Executive tenant. Overseas visitors welcome. Short/long term. L.F., 730 8002.

UNFURN. S.W.1. 6 r., k., 2 b., block, £1,100 p.a. £4,750 f.f. 385 4396, F.I.L.

RUSSELL. Luxury furn. 3 bedrm. detached house, £185 per month. Tel. 01-229 4375.

FULHAM. 2 r., k., b., c.h., T.V. Suit working couple. Long/short lets from £38 p.w. 385 4396, F.I.L.

FINCHLEY. Nr. schools and shops. Well furn. maisonette, 2 dble. bedrms., dble. lounge, k. and b., c.h., garage, garden. £37.50 p.w. Church Bros. 439 0581/9.

PUTNEY. Well furn. mod. flat., 1 bed., recept./dining room, kitchen, bathroom, c.h., avail. now, 1 year. £25 p.w. Ellis Copp. 789 1744.

KINGSBURY, Nr. Tube. Semi detached house. 2 dble., 1 single bedrooms, 2 recept., k. and b., c.h., garden, fully furn. inc. washing machine. £40 p.w. Church Bros. 439 0581/9.

UNFURN. STREATHAM. 4 r., k., b., £9 p.w. Contents £5,600. 385 4396, F.I.L.

TO LET. — Furnished attractive modern family house, near part Farnham, Surrey, nr. station, 4 beds., 3 recept., large garden. Garage avail. yr. £30 p.w.—Mellersh & Harding, 45 St. James Place, S.W.1. 493 6141.

A SPACIOUS, well decorated flat in Bayswater, 2 large bed rooms, recep., kitchen/diner, 2 bath. £85 p.w. Available 6 months plus.—Hunter & Co., 603 1087.

LANDSCAPED CARPARK in W.8. Luxury 3 bed flat with balcony in new development. 2 shared recept., lease 99 yrs. 2 baths. Garage.—Jennings 584 4377.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—Superb 1 and 2 bed flats, £25-£55 p.w.—West Trend 289 4094.

CHELSEA, SW10. s/c garden flat. 2 rooms, k. & b., C.H., c.h.w., Margins, evenings or 3 girls. £30 p.w. 352 7815.

A SAVOY LET.—Furn. c.h., c.h.w., 2 rms, kit., bath. £38 p.w.—603 3510.

RENTALS

AROUND TOWN FLATS

120 Holland Park Ave., W.11.

DRAYTON GDNS., S.W.10. Handsome 2-room flat in mod. Chelsea block (lift and porters) for long let for 1 or 2. Value at £55.

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"... LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us."—Isaiah 26: 12.

BIRTHS

COWARD.—On December 16th, at home, to Ann and Stephen—a daughter (Laura), sister for Victoria and Sarah.

DEIGHTON.—On December 15th at Queen Charlotte's, to Olivia and Robert Deighton—a daughter, Clare Louise.

DRUMMOND-HAY.—On December 16th to Sally (nee Redfern) and Robert—a daughter.

DWYER.—On December 16th, 1974, at Westminster Hospital, W.1, to Nina (nee Barclay de Tolly) and Paul Dwyer—a son.

IVEAGH.—On 12th December, 1974, in Dublin, to Miranda and Benjamin Iveagh—a son.

LITTLEJOHN COOK.—On December 14 at the Avenue Clinic, St. John's Wood, to Theresa (nee Compos), and George—a son (Peter Alexander).

MACK.—On December 11th at The Royal Hospital, Hackney, to Catherine (nee Le Grice), and George—a daughter (Eleanor Margaret).

WOOLF.—On December 11th to Rachael and Marilyn (nee Lewis)—a son, brother for David and Anita.

MASON.—On 14th December, in Cheltenham, to Penny (nee Barnett) and Gerry Mason—a son (Alexander Edward), a brother for Douglas.

MORGAN.—On 17th December, at Enfield Maternity Hospital, to Ian and Jenny (nee Gunn)—a daughter (Rachael Emma).

RUTLAND.—On 2nd December at Coombe House, Weston-super-Mare, to Jill (nee Marshall) and Andrew — a daughter (Kate Frances). Grateful thanks to hospital staff.

SEYMOUR.—On 8th December, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, to Patricia and Tony Seymour—a son.

SMITH.—On 15th December, 1974, in Auckland, to Jill (nee Edwards) and Andrew Smith—a daughter.

THOMAS.—On December 13th at St. Teresa's Hospital, Wimbledon, to Alenka and David Thomas—a daughter.

WARD.—On December 16th, in Nairobi, Kenya, to Raye (nee Low) and Simon Ward—a son (Matthew James).

MARRIAGE

HORNIMAN : DANJOUX.—On December 14th, in Mauritius, Nicholas Charles, son of Mrs. Mary Horniman, Cheam, Surrey, and the late Group Captain R. H. Horniman, C.B.E., to Jocelyne Marie-Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eliel Danjoux, of Mauritius.

DEATHS

AFNAN.—On December 15th, in Beirut, Beda, widow of Hussein Afnan, mother of Fawzi, Mourad and grandmother of Zeifa Mourad. Letters to Mourad, 195 Rue Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, Msaitbe, Beirut.

ARTHUR, the Rev John Sigismund, M.C., on 16th December, 1974, aged 80, peacefully at home, after a short illness. No special flowers please. Funeral service St. Thomas A' Becket, Puckle Church, Bristol, 12 noon, on Sat., 21st Dec.

BLAIR.—On 10th December, 1974, in hospital, after an accident, Jane Murray, dearly loved wife of Major Alan M. H. Blair, R.A.O.C., and beloved mother of Susan.

BOWMAN.—On December 16th at the Westmorland County Hospital, Eric F. Bowman, C.B.E., aged 81 years, of Low Park, Endmoor (former Headmaster of Penistone Grammar), husband of Phyllis M. Bowman. The service will take place at The Friends Meeting House, Thursday, December 19th, at 10.30 a.m., prior to interment at The Friends Burial Ground. No flowers by request.

CHENEY.—Suddenly, on December 14th, 1974, Gordon of "The Limes, Thrapstone, Northants, beloved father of John, Mary and Ruth. Funeral on Friday, December 20th. Service at Thrapstone Parish Church, at 2.30 a.m., followed by interment at Thrapstone. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, to: The Nat.-West Bank, Thrapstone, for the Injured Jockeys' Fund.

CLARKE.—On December 17th, 1974, peacefully at home, 2 The Cliff, Budleigh Salterton, Joseph Sherwood, aged 71 years, darling husband of Mary, and loved father of Gillian, Jeremy and Arden. A loving grandfather to his four grandchildren. Funeral service at All Saints Church, East Budleigh, on Friday, December 20th, at 12 noon, followed by private cremation. Flowers to Funeral Director, 45 47 High Street, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

COLEMAN.—On December 16 at home, Crys Coleman after a long illness, most bravely borne, wife of the late Dr. Stanley Coleman, and dearly loved mother of Vicky. Funeral service St. Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas, Dorset, Friday, December 20th at 3 p.m. Flowers to Woods (Dorchester) Ltd., by 12 noon please.

CORBETT.—Richard Hugh on 16 December at home, peacefully. No flowers or letters. Thanksgiving service to be held later.

CRATES.—On Dec. 17th, at his home in Tunbridge Wells after a long illness courageously borne, John Morrison (Jack), beloved husband of "Willie", dear father of John and brother of Margaret, Geoffrey and Nora. Cremation at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Friday, Dec. 20th, at 12.30. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research.

CREGAN.—On December 16th, at University College Hospital, Joan Mary Cregan, much loved wife of Quartus, mother of Liz and a dear grandmother. Funeral service on Friday, December 20th at 2.30 p.m. at St. Luke's Church, Kidderpore Ave., N.W.3. Followed by cremation at Golders Green at 3 p.m. Flowers may be sent to H. J. Kenyon Ltd., 9 Pond St., N.W.3.

DOVE.—On December 16th, suddenly but peacefully, Frances Rose, widow of Harry Scott Dove and mother of Mervyn. Funeral service at St. Mary's Cathedral, Great Western Road, Glasgow, 9.20 6H, on Friday, 20th December, at 2 p.m., and thereafter at Glasgow Crematorium (New Chapel). No flowers, may be sent to St. Mary's Cathedral.

EVANS-PERCY.—Suddenly, 14 December, at Newport, Iow, aged 82, formerly Chief Geologist Burmah Oil Company and Hon. Treas. Geological Society of London, dear husband of Enid Mary Thom. Meadway, Berkhamsted Herts. Cremation Newport 10 a.m. Wed., 18 December. Donations if wished Friends Service Counsel, Friends House, Euston Road, N.W.1. Memorial Service to be announced.

FORGACS.—On 14th December, 197-, peacefully at his home in Wimbledon, Joseph Forgacs, aged 85, much loved father of Peter, Diana Williams and Richard Forgacs. Funeral service at the Putney Vale Crematorium on Thursday, 19th December, at 11.30 a.m. Flowers may be sent to Dalforn and Sons Ltd., 390 High St., Wimbledon.

HAMM.—On December 16th, suddenly, in London, Jeffrey Hubert Hamm, of West Clandon, Surrey. Beloved husband of Freda and loving father of Christopher, Jonathan and David. Service and cremation will take place at Randall's Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Friday, December 20th, at 11.30 a.m. Floral tributes (Sprays), to Messrs James and Thomas, 45 East Lane, West Horsley.

HOPKINS.—On December 16th, peacefully at home with his family and strengthened by the rites of the church, Royden Gilbert Thurston of 29 Springfields, Portingland, Norfolk, beloved husband of Flavia and father of Cecil, aged 76 years. R.I.P. Requiem at Framingham Earl Church, Thursday, December 19th at 11 a.m. followed by interment. Flowers to Foulsen & Son, Funeral Directors, Shotesham. Please. Telephone Brooke 332.

HOWARD-SMYTHE.—On 17th Dec., 1974, Elizabeth (Betty), of 1 Parkside, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. Funeral private. No flowers or letters, please.

HUGHES-HUGHES.—On December 15th, 1974, at her home "Newton", 34 Shrubsgrove Road, Maidstone, suddenly, after a long illness bravely borne, Marion, dearly loved wife of Essex and mother of Patricia and James Lindsay. Funeral at 3.30 p.m. Monday, 23rd December, at the West Kent Crematorium.

HUTTY.—On December 14, 1974, in Hospital at Worthy, Sir Fred Hutty, aged 71, beloved husband of Nora, and father of Hilary, Jennifer and Penny. Funeral today Wednesday at Christchurch, Moreton, at 2 p.m. No flowers, please, but donations, if desired, to Medical Endowment, Victoria General Hospital, Walsey.

HYSLOP.—Sister Jocelyn, Community of The Resurrection, at Grahamstown, South Africa, daughter of the late Canon A. R. Hyslop.

JEANS.—On Dec. 17th, Hilda (nee Lucas), mother of David and Miles, peacefully. Funeral private, no letters or flowers, please.

KEATING.—On 12th December, 1974, at the General Hospital, Nottingham, Dr. Hilda Mary, M.A., Ph.D., of 65 Harewood Avenue, Newark, aged 81 years. Formerly assistant mistress at the Lily and Stone Girls' High School, Newark. Service 18th December, 1974, at Christ Church, Newark, 1.15 p.m., followed by cremation at Wilford Hill, Nottingham, at 2.15 p.m. No flowers, by request, but donations to Cancer Research, c/o Barclays Bank, Newark.

KNOWLES.—On December 16th, 1974, suddenly, Mark Iain Kenneth, 4½ years, much loved only son of Sheila and Mike of 6 Lauranham Road, Maidenhead, Berks. Cherished grandson of both Jack and Tot McClelland and Wink and the late Ken Knowles and treasured brother of Iain. Service at Slough Crematorium on Friday, 20th December at 3.00 p.m. Flowers to F. G. Pymm & Son, Maidenhead 25822.

DEATHS

MacDONALD-HILL.—On December 15th, after a long illness, Harry, husband of Ruth. No flowers, but donations, if desired, to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

MARSON.—On December 17th, 1974, at Fisham House Nursing Home, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Lilian Marson, aged 82 years, of Stirrings, Caldbec Hill, Battle, Sussex. Beloved wife of Arthur. Funeral service at St. Mary's Parish Church, Battle, on Monday, December 23rd, at 11.15 a.m., followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

MORGAN.—On Sunday, 15 December, suddenly at Eastfield House, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, Gerald Llewellyn Morgan, husband of Angela Noel and father of Harriet, James and William. Funeral private, no letters and no flowers, please. Donations, if desired, may be sent to Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

MORRIS.—On 16th December, 1974, suddenly, at his home, 6 Neston Street, Higher Openshaw, Peter, aged 78 years, the dearly beloved husband of Dorothy Mary Morris, dearly loved father of Paul and member of the Avro 504 Club and an aviation pioneer. Service and interment at West Houghton Parish Church on Friday, 20th December at 1.30 p.m. Enquiries: J. Bradley & Sons. 061-223 0695.

OAKESHOTT.—On the 15th of December, at home, Keith Robertson Oakeshott, C.M.G. Service at Surrey-Sussex Crematorium, Worth, near Crawley, at 11.30 a.m., on Friday, 20th December. Family flowers only.

O'DONNELL.—On 15th December, at the Royal Free Hospital, London, Nora O'Donnell, beloved mother of Maura and Michael, and widow of Dr. James Michael O'Donnell, late of Doncaster. Requiem and funeral at St. Saviour's Priory, Upper Dorset Street, Dublin, at 10 a.m. Friday. Flowers to Fennells, 11 North Frederick Street, Dublin 1.

OWEN.—On December 17th, 1974, in her sleep, at Cambridge, Mary Lloyd, aged 83 years, youngest daughter of William and Anne Lloyd-Owen, widow of Sydney George Owen and greatly loved mother of James. Funeral at Little St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Thursday, December 19th at 3.15 a.m. Memorial Service and interment of ashes St. Peter's, Newton, Swansea, Thursday, January 9th at 11.30 a.m. No flowers at her request, but contributions may be sent to—The International League for the Protection of Horses, P.O. Box 166, 67a Camden High St., London, N.W.1. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart and the tongue of the dumb shall sing."

PLESCH.—Suddenly in London on December 16th, in his 86th year, Apad Plesch. Private funeral. Monte Carlo.

PORTER. Jessica, loved wife of Peter Porter of 42 Cleveland Sq., London, Mother of Nathaniel and Jane, dear daughter of Richard and Jean Henry of Marlow. Cremation Slough Crematorium Friday, December 20th at 11 a.m.

SELBY.—On Dec. 14th, 1974, at No. 27 Clavering Walk, Cooden, Mary Eileen (Molly), wife of Atherton. Cremation private. No flowers or mourning, please.

SHELDON.—On December 7th, in Florence, Marie Noël, widow of William Ellis Sheldon. Funeral service and cremation Florence December 10th.

SINGER.—On Dec 16th, suddenly, at Little Barham, East Hoathly, Sussex, Charles Herbert, husband of Pat and father of Andrew. By his own request his body is to be used for therapeutic research. No mourning, no service, no flowers, but donations may be sent to the Motor Trades Benevolent Fund, Lynwood, Ascot, Berks.

SMITH.—On December 14th at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, Dudley Jackson, aged 60 years, beloved husband of Mary Wilhelmina, 44 Digswell Rise, Welwyn Garden City. Funeral service at Darsham Crematorium, Friday, December 20th, 2 p.m. All enquiries to Coughlan Bros., Welwyn Garden 25959.

STEPHEN.—Peacefully, at a Glasgow nursing home on 17th December, 1974, Sir A. Murray Stephen, beloved husband of Katherine Mitchell, of Craigmarloch, Kilmacolm. Funeral private. A memorial service will be held later.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HARRISON.—A Memorial Service will be held for Mr. Gabriel Harrison, on Wednesday, 18th December, at 6.15 p.m., at the Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

WEDGWOOD.—A memorial service for The Hon. Mrs. Dorothy Wedgwood, O.B.E., will be held in the Chapel of the Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer St., W.1. on Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 1975, at 12.30 p.m. No flowers. Donations to the Chaplain, Middlesex Hospital for the British Polio Fellowship or The Friends of the Middlesex Hospital. Interment at Barlaston Church, Staffordshire, on Jan. 6, 1975, at 12.30 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

JEFFREYS.—In happy and proud memory of John Darell (Lt. K.O.S.B., attached No. 2 Commando) on this his birthday, killed in Sicily on August 16th, 1943, and of his brother Edmund Henry (Flt. Lt., D.F.C., R.A.F.) killed on 10th June, 1944. Remembering also their devoted father, Robin Edmund (Captain, D.S.C., Royal Navy), who died on 24th November, 1963.

BISHOP.—In ever loving and treasured remembrance today his birthday and always, of our beloved son Peter, December 18th, 1938-March 30th, 1941.

BOYD.—Lt.-COL. "IAIN", M.C., J.P., thy birthday and every day.—M.

CASSADO.—In proud and loving memory of Col. Cassado, last president of the Council of Defence and C-in-C., Spanish Republic, died on December 18th, 1954, a great soldier, patriot and lover of democracy and humanity.—Rafael.

COOPER, DAME GLADYS. Dearest G., on her birthday.

EUTHYMOPULO, GEORGE.—December 18, 1963. Fondly remembered.—Effie, "Sally", and Frank, Melbourne, Australia.

GREG, RALPH MURRAY.—Still missing you so very much, fondest love always.—Helena.

HARDY.—IDA BETHUNE. "I cannot tell the way, or how I go or what awaits me, only this", known—I pass to come no more".—L.S.H.

NATHAN, MONTAGUE, died 18th December, 1973. Remembering with deepest love, in my heart, today and forever.—Peggy.

IN MEMORIAM

PARRACK.—In constant memory of my beloved husband, William Henry Parrack, who died on 18th December, 1957.

RODNEY, GEORGE, 8th Baron, of Cottesmore Lodge, Victoria, Canada, in loving memory from his brother Simon, his sons and daughters.

WILSON, SIR STEUART, died 18th December, 1966. "Keep this light in your eye and go up thereto."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ANGELONI.—Mrs. Angeloni and family wish to thank those who have kindly expressed their sympathy to them during their recent sad bereavement.

DAVIES.—Mrs Isabella Elizabeth Davies wishes to express her thanks and deep appreciation for the many kindnesses and flowers received during her recent sad bereavement.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

J. H. KENYON LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Day and Night Service. Private chapels.
45-47 Edgware Road, W.2.
01-723 5377
12 Kensington Church St., W.8.
01-937 0767

FLOWERS SPEAK FROM the HEART

Flowers help soften sorrow and comfort those who grieve: at the ceremony or from afar, express your sentiments with the gentle voice of flowers from your interflora Florist.

PUGH & CARR, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, florists for all occasions. 118 Knightsbridge. 584 8256. 26 Gloucester Rd., S.W.7. 584 7181.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A collection of Russian and Greek Ikons

will be exhibited from December 30th through January by Marina Bowater (of the former Bowater Gallery Ltd.), 32b Kensington Church St., London, W.8. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

British Heart Foundation
SPONSORS RESEARCH

into the causes, prevention and treatment of diseases of the heart and circulation. Please Help. Send a Donation. Remember us in your Will.

British Heart Foundation.
Dept. T.
57, Gloucester Place,
London, W1H 4DH.

DURING 1974 IVC has offered to its London members a choice of 4519 cultural, sports and social events. If you would like to meet other young (30-55), graduates and professional people enjoying a similar programme in 1975 come to the International Club premises, 117 Queensway, W2, today, 7.30-9 p.m. or write to David Vine for details of any of the 44 IVCs throughout Britain.

LET'S CONQUER CANCER in the Seventies. This is the aim of the Cancer Research Campaign. Isn't it yours, too? Please help us achieve it by sending as much as you can spare to Sir John Reiss Cancer Research Campaign (Dept. TX1), Freepost, London SW1Y 5YT.

DID YOU SEE Frank Bough last Sunday on BBC 1 T.V. appealing on behalf of Inskip St. Giles, the non-profit making Housing Association for physically handicapped people. Donations, please, to Frank Bough, 32 West Street, Poole, Dorset.

WELL EDUCATED LADY, elderly, plus 2 domesticated dogs, desperately requires small flat on low rent. Companion/baby sitting if required.—Apply Paul Sherriff, Gerrards Cross 85451.

HAVE YOU got a problem ? "Quiz Digest", a new publication, will pay £2 for original puzzles, problems, quizzes. Send to "Quiz Digest", 7 Abingdon Rd., London W8 6AH.

DONATIONS for the Cancer Prevention Research Institute can be sent to the Cancer Prevention Research Trust, 93 Regent Street, London, W1A 1DP.

GOING TO THE PANTO this Christmas ? For £3 the National Benevolent Fund for the Aged can give a lonely housebound old person a wonderful day with lunch, tea, dinner, followed by supper. Please send a gift so that we can make up a party of old men and women who have been in the home in years. This will be a Christmas outing they will long remember. NBFA, 3 Liverpool Street, EC2M 7QD.

B.A., B.Sc.—See B.A., B.Sc. plus under Services.

EXAMS No 75 ? See Talbot Rice, under Services.

HAVE FUN helping the old. Drivers needed one Sunday afternoon a month. Contact 01-240 0830.

I.S.F. offer free advice on overseas employment.—See Gen. Vacs.

A & O EXAMS, Oxbridge.—See Marsden Tutors under Services.

CARPETS, ex-Exhibition.—Sapphire Carpets.—See Sales & Wants.

TOP FLIGHT TRAVELS. Best value. GM Depts. See Holidays & Villas.

KRUGERRANDS.—See our advertisement under Articles for Sale. David Owen Edmunds. (Gold & Diamonds Division.)

RIDING SCHOOL for sale. See under Business for Sale.

SOUTH DEVON Resort Residential/Business Possibilities.—See Commercial and Industrial Property.

EDUCATIONAL Premises required. See prop. wanted.

GRACIOUS LIVING.—See Country Properties.

IBM ELECTRIC typewriters.—See Business Services.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS seek Accountant: could suit retired man. See Accountancy Vacs.

HOUSE/APARTMENT CLEANING ? See Personal Services.

HAVE YOU READ "No Fixed Abode" by Anton Wallich-Clifford ? Please remember those who sleep out this Christmas. Send a donation to the Simon Community Trust, (Dept. 1), Midland Bank Ltd., Newgate Street, London, E.C.1.

COOPER, WILLIAM FRANK COOPER, late of The Retreat, St. John's Drive, Rayleigh, Essex, died there on 20th August, 1973 (Estate about £23,500).

KOTT nee STOLARSKY, JENNIE ROSE KOTT nee STOLARSKY, widow late of Flat 57, Block 9, Parfett Street, Stepney, London, E.1, died at Westminster, London, S.W.1, on 15th September, 1971 (Estate about £23,000).

WANLESS, WILLIAM ALFRED WANLESS, late of 90 South View Terrace, Plymouth, Devon, died at Plymouth on 24th March, 1974 (Estate about £12,500).

WHITE, ARTHUR WHITE, late of 69 Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, died at Melton Mowbray on 19th December, 1973 (Estate about £3,900).

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (S.V.), 35 Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1 stating which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

K.S.T.—Happy birthday you Hazen Bruzzy.

DOGS' CHRISTMAS DINNER FUND. —Please send a donation to Great Britain's largest and most successful dog sanctuary. The Pine Ridge Dog Sanctuary, Priory Road, Ascot. (Registered charity.) Always 250 dogs being cared for. Over 1,000 unwanted dogs saved and homes found every year on highly discriminating basis. No dogs ever destroyed. Principal: Bernard Cuff.

JOSEPHINE.—Happy Anniversary Darling. Love Arthur.

FUND RAISER seeks appointment. —See Situations Wanted.

TOP PHOTOGRAPHER touring Thailand accepts briefs see Business Services.

ABANDONED, ill-treated, lost, injured: THE WOOD GREEN ANIMAL SHELTER, 601 Lordship Lane, London, N22. Hon Treasurer Dr Margaret Young deals with thousands of these animals yearly. It has a Free Clinic for the sick and ailing; it maintains a Cat Sanctuary and has a Home for Unwanted Animals at Heydon, nr. Royston, Herts. Please help by sending a donation for THE STRAYS' CHRISTMAS DINNER. Visitors always welcome.

GOOD SPEECH and accent.—See Personal Services.

THE SWISS CONTINENTAL Association.—See Hols. and Villas.

TONY DONAVON. Please ring Pat Grogan.

"SOMETHING WILL TURN UP" —see Clubs and Restaurants.

JAPANESE LADY wishes to be paying guest. See Personal Rentals.

ALDERNSTONE TOWNHEAD, Cumbria. Charming house. See Country properties

HALTWHISTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND. Semi-det. house. See Country Props.

GREETINGS

From : The Times Appointments Team

To: All our advertisers and our colleagues in Advertising and Employment Agencies.

Message:
"Good Tidings we bring,
To you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year".

Ring us on
01-278 9161
for full details of the Recruitment Services offered by The Times, and if you are really lucky, we will sing you a carol!

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS —FOR THE HOMELESS AND ALONE

Five days over Christmas we hope again to provide food and shelter for over 600 of the destitute of London. As yet we do not have enough money or food to cope.

If you will not know isolation this Christmas, but love and warmth, please help us to help THEM by sending a donation or food to:

ANDREW CRUICKSHANK
C. at C.
39 Moore St., London, S.W.3
01-584 3744

THE CHEST and HEART ASSOCIATION

will continue to help those who suffer from chest, heart and stroke disabilities.
Research and Rehabilitation is increasingly expensive.
Please send a donation or make a bequest in your will.
THE CHEST AND HEART ASSOCIATION, Dept. T, Tavistock House North, London, WC1H 9JE.

CANCER RESEARCH

Join us in our fight against cancer.
You can play a vital role in enabling us to continue our research programmes.
Please help by sending a donation, now to the
IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
Dept. T.2, P.O. Box 123
Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PX

DO YOU ENJOY reading this column ? Then you will appreciate Tinderbox column in the Times Saturday Bazaar.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

GREETINGS FROM
MOLLY & BILL TUCKER
CHRISTMAS 1974
NEW YEAR 1975
In years gone by we've sent a trillion
Cards and presents to our friends.
We still send to you a million
Greetings, after that the custom
The reason for this situation—
We've been caught out by inflation!
Bermuda London

DENISE AND JOHN PILKINGTON wish all their friends and relations a very Happy Christmas, from Rome.

JANET AND GUY BUTLER wish all their relatives and friends a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

LADY FERGUSSON HANNAY (Doris Leslie) is sending no cards but wishes all her friends the warmest greetings for Xmas and the New Year.

LORD AND LADY DIPLOCK wish all their friends a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. They will not be sending Christmas cards.

LOUISE LADY RALLI will not be sending Christmas cards this year, but she sends very good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all her friends and relations.

MAJOR H. E. P. CATTELL (Harvey) of Stanley House, Douglas Head, Isle of Man at present sojourning in Las Palmas sends to all his friends worldwide his wishes on this Holy Christmastide.

MRS. GILBERT RUSSELL sends her best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all her friends. She will not be sending Christmas cards this year.

UK HOLIDAYS

LIME TREE HOTEL, Ebury Street, S.W.1. nr. Air Terminals and Victoria Coach Station. 1st breakfast £1.15. Tel.: 01-730 8191.

NEW YEAR SKIING in Scotland, mixed party, 18 to 35 ; 4 days of fun and excitement. Ski-Away. 01-579 4026 (24 hours).

HOTEL FOR LADIES, 18 to 40. 200 single rooms. Partial board. £10 p.w. All amenities. Apply: 179 New Kent Rd., London, S.E.1. 703 4175.

N. WALES, charming farmhouses, sleep 4-6. Nr. Abergele Beach ; peace. Brochure 061-928 2209.

HAWORTH, Bronte country, delightful old world cottage available 21 December onwards. Leeds 752977.

DEVON COTTAGE available Christmas and spring.—01-886 2150 (eves.).

MALVERN HILLS cottage, every comfort, available now, £25 p.w. Ugh. Colwall 2065.

NEW YEAR in Scotland. Skiing, parties, celebrations. Weekend Ski Club, 727 0481.

HOGMANAY, 3 days in Scotland, £25.50. Weekend Ski Club. 730 3451.

TREAT YOURSELF.—Stay in luxury serviced suites in Kensington with colour T.V. £70-£170 p.w.—K.P. 370 4044.

BUNGALOW FACING SEA, 66 Wicklands, Saltdean, Brighton 36586.

ALBANY HOTEL, Barkston Gardens, S.W.5, welcomes you. Recently modernised. Nr. West London Air Terminal. 01-370 6116.

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LET THE TIMES HELP YOU

SENIOR SECRETARY/P.A.

up to £5,000 p.a.

Independent person up to 30 years required for small export business. W9. You will be working for the manager, who is often abroad. So independence and good experience is vital. German would be advantageous.

Are you looking for the right girl to be your Secretary/P.A. ? This advertiser was, he booked this ad on our 3 days plus a 4th day free and had such a good response he was able to cancel after the 2nd day. We get the response and response is what you are after—so why not give us a try

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01-837 3311
and become a successful advertiser yourself.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you sentence a child to ...
IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE!

Mental Handicap has already done this to thousands of children in this country. . . . Only we, blessed with so-called normality, can ease these cruel doors.

The keys are love, compassion and concern.

Those of us who still recognize Christmas for its true meaning will know what these words mean.

If the plea of our Handicapped Children touches your heart, please write to the Appeals Director at The National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, Pembridge Hall, 17 Pembridge Square, London W2.

We pray that you will have a happy Christmas.

GREETINGS

From : The Times Appointments Team

To: All our advertisers and our colleagues in Advertising and Employment Agencies.

Message:
"Good Tidings we bring,
To you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year".

Ring us on
01-278 9161
for full details of the Recruitment Services offered by The Times, and if you are really lucky, we will sing you a carol!

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Join us in our fight against cancer.
You can play a vital role in enabling us to continue our research programmes.
Please help by sending a donation, now to the
IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
Dept. T.2, P.O. Box 123
Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PX

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Ring
01-837 3311
and become a successful advertiser yourself.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

"CHRISTMAS IN THE COTSWOLDS"
DORMY HOUSE HOTEL,
BROADWAY, WORCS.
BROADWAY 2241.

SCOTLAND / LAKE DISTRICT.—Xmas/New Year, 13-35s. Few seats available, £37.50inc. Fun & Leisure Club, 177 Kensington High St., London, W.8. 01-937 6313/9780.

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THE FABULOUS
MISS SALENA JONES
From Dec 23-Jan. 4
LOS FABULOSOS
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XMAS EVE GALA £10 NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA £15
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3 Course
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Also
Fantastic help yourself buffet table available 12 noon-3 p.m.
Monday-Friday, £2.50 fully inclusive of dessert, coffee, V.A.T. and service
63 Kingly St. (Regent St.), W.1.
Telephone 437 5800, 734 1071.

"SOMETHING WILL TURN UP" said Mr. Micawber. It has at his new wine bar in Putney. 147 Upper Richmond Road.

"TAGORE" London's 1st Indian restaurant specialising in Tandoori and Moghlai cuisine. Live sitar music. 8 Brunswick Gdns, Russell Square, W.C.1. 837 3377.

THE COUNTRY RESTAURANT. Executive luncheons. Licensed.—116 Newgate St., E.C.1. 01-600 1134

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ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1
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- TOPLESS BARMAIDS
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Open 9 p.m.—till the early hours Monday-Saturday
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PICCADILLY, S.W.1.
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ROYAL BATH,
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ENJOY CHRISTMAS at Bath. Hotel house party in a friendly atmosphere. Full programme includes cocktail party, dancing and cabaret with visit to local tourist attractions. Optional theatre party. Every comfort, good English fare